

## THE TIMES Tomorrow

**Sackcloth...**  
David Hewson reveals why BBC people are wringing their hands.  
**And ashes**  
Bernard Levin might not be addicted to tobacco, but he would defend to the death people's right to smoke.



**Through a glass...**  
The Books Page features a beery history and the biography of the Catholic priest who was the model for Dorian Gray.

**Darkly**  
The subject of the Times Profile is Roald Dahl, writer of charming children's fantasies and ghoulish tales for grown-ups.

## Pension rise plan may cost £350m

The Treasury is planning to ask about 2.5 million teachers, council and health service employees to increase their pension contributions by 2 per cent of their salary. It is estimated that it would cost employees up to £350m. Page 2

## Early holiday for Commons

The Government took the unusual step of announcing months in advance that the Commons will rise for Easter in the week ending April 13. Easter is late next year.

## Spain unhappy

Madrid's growing exasperation with Paris over both Basque refugees and EEC entry provided a difficult backdrop to talks between President Mitterrand and Señor Gonzalez Page 8

## NGA action

Lawyers representing the National Graphical Association and High Court sequestrators have met in an attempt to resolve a dispute over the "export" of union funds to Dublin



## £7.6m arts aid

A £7.6m package to aid the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Royal Opera House and several regional opera companies has been announced. Page 2

## Moors killer ill

Ian Brady, serving a life sentence in Gartree prison, Leicestershire, for the Moors murders, has been admitted to the prison hospital. His weight has dropped from 13st to 7st 12lb

## Thatcher wish

Mrs Thatcher would choose to be Mother Teresa of Calcutta if there was a chance to be anyone else, she revealed on television

**Leader, page 13**  
Letters: On local government, from Mr G. Alderman and others; Turkey, from Mrs D. Spearman, and Dr D. Seddon  
**Leading articles:** Rate Bill; PLO; Jamaican election  
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Bill Brandt, Grigori Alexandrov

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# Rate-capping Bill faces strongest test in the Lords

By Julian Haviland and Hugh Clayton

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, has decided that he would have to resign if Parliament fails to enact the Rates Bill published yesterday.

But in private, as in public, he has expressed no doubt that the Bill, which will limit the power of local authorities to raise rates, will become law without major changes. His talk of resigning is a mark of this apparent confidence.

At the same time, there have been new signs that Mr Jenkin is concerned at the strength of opposition being assembled against the Bill in the House of Lords.

In discussions with peers he has suggested that the Bill raises constitutional questions for them, since its provisions are concerned with taxation and expenditure and since it was promised in a manifesto endorsed by the electorate.

The second point is one on which members of the unelected House are sensitive. But the first carries an implied threat which Conservative peers yesterday did not like, and which they consider empty.

Under the Parliament Act, 1911, the House of Lords has no power to amend a money Bill, dealing with such matters as taxation and money supply.

But the definition of a money Bill under the Act excludes, according to Enkine May's *Parliamentary Practice*, "taxation, money or loan raised by local authorities for local purposes".

There is no doubt that the Bill will be strongly resisted by many Conservative, as well as Opposition and cross-bench peers, who will be within their constitutional rights.

The Bill, which received its first Commons reading yesterday, showed that the Government has rejected almost all criticism from its own supporters.

But the Bill includes a reserve power to "cap" rates of all councils in England and Wales. Mr Jenkin, aware of strong Conservative opposition to the general proposal, insisted that its main purpose was to act as a deterrent - "to be used only if absolutely necessary."

Sir Terence Beckett, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, described the Bill as "a much-needed restraint on the tiny minority of town and county councils which have for too long been spending beyond their means."

The Bill attracted little support elsewhere, despite the presence of powers to exempt hundreds of councils, most led by Conservatives.

Councils whose total spending is less than £10m a year will be exempt from selective "capping", and the Bill allows ministers to remove particular councils from the reserve general scheme.

The Bill also entitles ministers to seek parliamentary powers to raise the £10m spending barrier below which councils cannot be earmarked for selective rate-capping. But the Association of District

porters about "capping" rates of councils which ignore government spending guidelines and issue soaring rate demands.

The Bill will require ministers to name the first candidates for "capping" in the middle of 1984. It sets out two powers. One will enable ministers to list what they consider the most outrageous high-spenders in one year and fix legally-enforceable ceilings to their rates for the next.

Mr Jenkin said yesterday that rate demands above govern-

## Probable timetable

**1984**  
Spring: Rates Bill becomes law.  
Summer: Ministers reveal councils to be capped.

**1985**  
January: Capped councils expected to "appeal".  
March: Government seeks Commons approval of capping.

**1986**  
April: Demands issued to rate-payers: capped councils must include signed guarantees that demands are within government ceilings - otherwise ratepayers can refuse to pay.

Mr Jenkin said yesterday that rate demands above govern-

ment ceilings from "capped councils" would not be legally enforceable.

The plans will probably affect only Labour-led authorities. Prime candidates if such powers were available now would include the Greater London Council, several London boroughs and some Labour-led county councils.

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Target practice: Pie-in-the-face day for the Prince of Wales during a visit to a newly-opened community centre in Manchester yesterday. Katie Slater, aged 15, gained royal assent before launching her foam pie at the Prince (top) and Mr Stephen Starkie, director of Bolton's Hallucination Theatre, became the target of the Prince.

## Israeli jets watch Arafat's tiny armada sail away

From Robert Fisk, Tripoli, northern Lebanon

Escorted by five French warships and an aircraft carrier, Mr Yasser Arafat and his 4,000 guerrillas left their last Lebanese enclave at Tripoli yesterday on board five Greek ferries.

They sailed under a diminutive UN flag, watched all the time by the Israeli Air Force, their military power finally extinguished by the Arabs.

The Israelis sent their reconnaissance jets to watch Mr Arafat's tiny armada sail at dusk amid the thunder of farewell gunfire from the guerrillas on deck and the explosions of rocket-propelled grenades just outside the Tripoli front line, where Mr Arafat's Palestinian and Syrian opponents were celebrating victory.

PLO officials in Tripoli were suggesting before their departure, however, that Mr Arafat may try to stage a political coup by travelling soon to Amman to reopen negotiations with King Hussein of Jordan for autonomy on the occupied West Bank under the terms of President Reagan's Middle East peace plan.

Reports circulating in Tripoli said that the King would be happy to see the PLO chairman, but the Americans could well question whether Mr Arafat - if he at last decides to negotiate - any longer represents the Palestinian people.

Mr Arafat called the evacuation a sad day for the Palestinians, while Abu Jihad.

Mr Khalil Wazzir, his military commander, talked angrily of the Syrian "conspiracy" which had brought about the PLO's departure.

Curiously, even in his moment of utter defeat, Mr Arafat appeared anxious to keep open the option of future talks with Damascus. In a short and slightly strained ceremony late on Monday night, at which he thanked the Mayor and city fathers of Tripoli for their "support" - a word with which the burghers might not have agreed - he also said that he had not asked for the battle.

● JERUSALEM: Israel last night threatened its policy of veiled threats against the PLO. Continued on back page, col 1

## Donaldson memo 'mole' dismissed

By John Witherow

A junior civil servant was dismissed from the Department of Employment yesterday for leaking a confidential memo, which showed that Sir John Donaldson, the Master of the Rolls, gave advice to the Government on industrial relations reforms.

The administration trainee, a graduate who had been in the department for 18 months, was suspended earlier this month without pay after details of the document were published in *The Guardian* newspaper and *Time* magazine on November 30.

The document, which the Department of Employment said had been stolen, showed that Sir John discussed legislative proposals last year with Mr Michael Quinlan, then permanent secretary designate of the department.

## Wage deals too high says Bank

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Pay settlements are still too high and need to come down further to improve industry's competitiveness, the Bank of England says in its latest *Quarterly Bulletin*. But it is more optimistic about growth prospects than it was a few months ago.

The Bank has come round to the Treasury view that the economy is growing at about 3 per cent a year. It believes that improved company finances could herald a pick-up in capital spending, which will help to sustain the recovery once consumer spending slackens.

The Bank is still worried about industry's ability to compete internationally. The Bulletin points to big improvements in productivity in the past three years and the fall in the pound since autumn 1982 which has helped to improve competitiveness.

British costs, however, are still high by international comparison and "moderation in wage increases therefore remains very important," the Bank says.

The Bank would like to see pay settlements falling faster and although deals in the new pay round are down slightly, inflation has fallen faster over the same period.

The Bulletin criticizes the US Administration for running a big budget deficit. This has kept interest rates higher than necessary and threatens the continuation of the world recovery, it says.

Further confirmation that economic activity is still picking up came yesterday with publication of the revised output measure of gross domestic product, which rose 1.2 per cent in the third quarter to a level 2.2 per cent above the third quarter of 1982. Kenneth Fleet, page 15

## Satellite deal may launch UK astronaut

By Rodney Cowton

Defence Correspondent

The prospect of Britain putting an astronaut into space came a stage nearer with the decision yesterday to launch British military communications satellites, using the American Space Shuttle rather than the European Ariane rocket.

Two Skynet IV satellites will be launched - the first in late 1985 and the second in 1986 - at a combined cost of £60m. As a result of choosing the shuttle, Britain becomes entitled to send an astronaut on a future flight.

The Ministry of Defence said yesterday that ministers had not yet considered whether to take up the opportunity. That decision was peripheral to

the main one of determining which launch vehicle to use.

The Ministry has refused to discuss any details about the selection and training of an astronaut, although it is believed that it has a short list of candidates drawn from people with experience in the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy.

The Government's decision was announced in the Commons through a written reply by Mr John Lee, the Under-Secretary of State for Defence Procurement.

It will have come a severe blow to the Ariane project and, in particular the French, who have a more than 60 per cent stake in it. The British stake is not quite 2.5 per cent.

The Ministry of Defence said, using the shuttle was cheaper than Ariane, but Britain would continue to give Ariane full consideration for the launch of future satellites.

Skynet IV has been designed from the start to be competitive with the shuttle, but the Ministry said the second stage of the Skynet project would be designed to be compatible with Ariane as well.

Skynet IV will be the first British military communications satellite to be put in orbit for more than 10 years. Skynet II is believed to be operating beyond its designed life.

The satellites, for which British Aerospace Dynamics is

the main contractor and Marconi Space and Defence Systems the equally important main sub-contractors, will be able to operate on a much larger number of channels than Skynet II.

The satellites have been designed to be resistant to electronic jamming and to be able to withstand the effect of nuclear bursts.

Until the setback represented by the British decision, the Ariane project had had a good year with successful launches in June and October. For the June launch, the main payload was ECS 1, the first of five European Communications Satellites, for which British Aerospace is the prime contractor.



## £70m engine deal frozen by Leyland

Leyland Trucks has suspended a £35m investment programme at its Bathgate plant in Scotland.

The decision freezes the £70m deal with the Cummins Engine Company in the United States for a Bathgate-built engine due to go into production in 1985.

Leyland Trucks has suffered a substantial fall in foreign demand and is reviewing investment plans. The management say the company can no longer endure present trading losses. Increases in production or prices have been ruled out.

The Cummins deal, sealed 15 months ago, was described by the Leyland group chairman, Mr David Andrews, as vital for the future of Bathgate.

Union leaders at the plant have requested a meeting with the management and with Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, to allay fears about the plant's future.

## Judgment on title deferred

A retired army colonel will have to wait until early next year to learn whether or not he will succeed to the ancient Scottish baronetcy of Dunbar of Merchiston.

Yesterday Scotland's Lord Lyon King of Arms reserved his judgment after hearing two days of legal debate before the Lyon court in Edinburgh. Colonel William Dunbar, aged 90, of Herne Bay, Kent, is challenging the right of his cousin, Sir Iain Ivar Dunbar, a former American jockey, aged 65, of New York, to the title of 13th baronet.

## Airline gifts cost £200,000

British Airways are spending £200,000 to give all of its passengers a special Christmas present this week.

Starting yesterday the airline was giving away Wedgwood plates and crystal tumblers to passengers at Heathrow airport. Children will receive records and tapes of their favourite music or stories. The airline carries 14,000 passengers a day through Heathrow and the gifts will be presented to passengers until Friday.

## Seizure of sex dolls backed

Judge Anwyl-Davies, in the second part of his judgment at Southwark Crown Court, London, said yesterday that customs officers were right to seize 500 blow-up sex dolls when they arrived at Heathrow airport from West Germany in October last year.

Last week he ruled that the dolls, which he described as "hideously offensive, were obscene and indecent. They were imported by Conquest Ltd, now trading as Quiddity, which has a nationwide sex shop chain.

## £200,000 pay for dentists

Some British dentists are earning between £100,000 and £200,000 by carrying out non-essential work, according to Mr Barry Sheerman, Labour MP for Huddersfield.

"It is only a few, from what I am told, probably between 20 and 30, but it is a disgraceful situation," he said.

## Public service workers may pay more to pension plans

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

The Treasury is to ask 2.5 million teachers, local government and National Health Service employees to increase their pension contributions by 2 per cent of pay.

It is estimated that this could cost employees £350m.

Official sources said ministers had decided that all public sector pension contributions should be at a "realistic level", and Whitehall now accepted that this is the 7.9 per cent notional contribution made by the 657,000 members of the inflation-proof Civil Service scheme.

The idea has been informally floated to Civil Service union leaders that the notional 7.9 per cent contribution should be turned into an actual contribution - at no cost to either side.

Meanwhile, plans are being laid to increase the employee contributions of the 1,060,000 local government pension scheme members, the 613,000 teachers' scheme members and the 820,000 members of the health service pension scheme.

Manual employees in the health service and local government now contribute 5 per cent of pay, while non-manuals and teachers contribute 6 per cent of pay.

Treasury sources are now talking of contributions of between 7 and 8 per cent for the indexed schemes, and the new rates could be introduced from April 1985.

The 2 per cent decision is seen as the conclusion of the Prime Minister's demand for action on inflation-proof pensions, which resulted in the Scott Report Inquiry into the Value of Pensions, three years ago.

Sir Bernard Scott said then: "If the battle to contain inflation is successful, then the present considerable inequalities between pensions will diminish to more manageable proportions."

Inflation was 15.3 per cent in November 1980, compared with 4.8 per cent last month.

Ministers are also keen to point out that most inflation-proof pensions are by no means represented by some of the high-level examples often cited by the media. In the health service scheme, before last year's increase, 52.1 per cent of pensions were less than £1,000 a year.

In the teachers' scheme, before last year's rise, 26 per cent of pensions were less than £2,000 a year and another 45 per cent were between £2,000 and £4,000.

## Miners to continue work ban

Miners' leaders voted yesterday to withdraw from industrial action and to continue their national overtime ban over pay and pit closures into the new year.

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, said that the ban, now into its eighth week, had cost 2.4 million tonnes in lost production.

The situation is likely to worsen next month when any pay negotiations on the 5.3 per cent offer seem further away than ever after the union executive's decision to leave the five-year-old Joint Policy Advisory Committee, the only forum in which the coal board believes an acceptable approach to the Government could be fashioned.

The three mining unions and the board are due to meet next month to draw up an ambitious extension of the industry's tripartite Plan for Coal, and those talks are likely to go ahead. But the NUM says that it will not join any approach to the Secretary of State for Energy, unless it is on a policy of "no pit closures and an end to manpower reductions".

The coal board says that unless normal overtime is permitted over the 10-day Christmas holiday, up to 40 collieries could be at risk from flooding. But Mr Scargill said: "We shall be doing no more than what has been done already - that is seeking sensible talks."

## GPs attack rules for deputies

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

About 80 per cent of the 12,000 family doctors who use deputizing services to cover night and weekend calls would be barred from doing so under new proposals by Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, the British Medical Association said yesterday.

According to these, doctors in partnerships of three or more would be expected to cover each other's night calls without recourse to deputizing services.

Doctors working alone or in partnerships of two would normally be restricted to using the services three nights a week and alternative weekends.

Mr Michael Lowe, secretary to the BMA's advisory committee on deputizing services, said that as a result deputizing services would become uneconomic and close, with general practice in inner-city areas collapsing.

Many older family doctors in inner-city areas would not be able to cope with taking late night calls four nights a week. He said: "They would just get out of it and I think you would have a job recruiting new doctors to come."

Britain's opticians yesterday launched a campaign to oppose the Government's Bill ending their monopoly to dispense spectacles. The Federation of Optical Corporate Bodies said that, for all except the simplest prescriptions, prices would rise, not fall, as the Government maintains.



Day of desolation: A worker heading home after the announcement that the nearly completed BP rig behind him is likely to be Scott Lithgow's last job (Photograph: Tom Kidd).

## Ship towns fear catastrophe

By David Black

The now seemingly inevitable closure of British Shipbuilders' Scott Lithgow yard will mean a virtual end to shipbuilding in the Lower Clyde.

For 272 years the yard has been the main employer in the Laverly area. Its demise would turn Port Glasgow and Greenock into one of Britain's biggest areas of unemployment, and Laverly is now bracing itself for this social catastrophe.

Cancellation of the Britoil rig this week had been expected in the yard and in the community for more than five months. The announcement numbered rather than outraged the people of Port Glasgow and Greenock.

Most feel the workforce has

been conditioned by the months of speculation over their future. Today there is a feeling of defeat in the towns in spite of moves by politicians and union leaders to avert closure.

The loss of 4,500 jobs by next spring would raise male unemployment from its present 16 per cent to between 35 and 40 per cent.

On the Lower Clyde it would leave only British Shipbuilders' small Ferguson Ailsa yard in Port Glasgow and the John Kincaid engine works which together employ barely 1,500.

A decade of recession has also seen the town's textile and sugar industries collapse, only one other large employer remaining - IBM, with a workforce of 2,500.

Yesterday Greenock's prov-

ost, Mr Harry Mulholland, predicted the closure would cost a further 4,000 jobs in the area. He said: "The town would probably never recover."

Ten years ago Scott was involved in submarine and other naval construction. Lithgow then built tankers, and together they employed more than 10,000.

An example of the town's plight is the fact that more than 8,000 applications were received last month by IBM.

The Fraser of Allender Institute has given a warning that the closure would cause ripples far beyond the Lower Clyde. It estimates a total of 8,500 redundancies could follow within 12 months, some as far away as the West Midlands.

## Inquiry by MPs into fuel prices

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Cabinet's decision to ask the electricity industry to raise prices to domestic consumers by 2 per cent in April is to be investigated by the all-party Commons Select Committee on Energy.

The decision of the newly formed committee to hold an inquiry into fuel prices is the latest twist in the dispute involving the Treasury on one side and the Electricity Council and the Department of Energy on the other.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, has been pressing for a 3 per cent increase on domestic and industrial users, which Mr Peter Walker, the Secretary of State for Energy and the Electricity Council resisted.

In what has been seen as a compromise, the Cabinet agreed to ask for a 2 per cent increase on domestic tariffs, which it has no power to implement. Although there are signs that this may be acceptable to the council, some electricity industry leaders are still unhappy and may be in the mood to rebel.

The council is due to consider the price increase request at its meeting on January 19 but the select committee inquiry, which is due to begin immediately after Christmas and which will take evidence from the Treasury, the energy department and the council, may encourage it not to take a final decision in the hope that it will gain support from MPs.

## Policeman accused of accosting

A police chief allegedly asked a plain-clothes policeman for sex in Nottingham's red light district, magistrates were told yesterday.

Detective Chief Inspector Robert Warner, of the Lincolnshire Constabulary's fraud and drugs squad, alleged to have asked Police Woman Janet Greenwood, of the Nottinghamshire force, "How much is it?"

The police woman, aged 30, told Nottingham magistrates that she replied: "What for?" He then said: "Straight sex."

She produced her warrant card from her jeans pocket and signalled to two other plain-clothes officers in the vicinity.

Chief Inspector Warner, aged 49, was before the court to answer a police summons asking that he be bound over to be of good behaviour under the Justice of the Peace Act of 1961. He denied the complaint.

Mr David Blundell, for the prosecution said that the chief inspector had committed no offence. The 1961 Act was used in cases of people who were misbehaving to the annoyance of others, such as peeping toms. The Act was one of the oldest on the statute books. But Mr Blundell said it had stood the test of time and many people had been bound over under it.

He added: "The prosecution says he behaved in exactly the same way as dozens of other people who have been bound over. What is good for the goose is good for the gander and the fact that he is a police officer makes no difference. The hearing continues today."



PM's visitor: Jodie Fitts, aged six, of Stockport, who gave some of her bone marrow in an attempt to save the life of her brother, Aaron, visiting Mrs Thatcher at the Commons yesterday. Her mother, Mrs Maxine Fitts, took her to see Mrs Thatcher at Westminster immediately after Prime Minister's Question Time.

## £7.6m rescue for opera and RSC

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

"The case for more funding for the arts is, of course, just as strong as the case for more funding for the two companies on which Mr. Priestly reported. In future years, attention must be focused on raising the level of arts opportunity and provision outside London to something closer to the London level."

Lord Gorrie denied that the decision unfairly favoured London activities and the opera companies, and said that the writing-off of the debts would give the Arts Council more money to spend on other activities. Opera was an activity of increasing popularity throughout the country, he said.

The minister's announcement, made in a written House of Lords reply, was described as "an insult to regional theatre and the Arts Council" by Mr Philip Hedley, director of the Theatre Royal, Stratford.

"The Royal Opera House and the Royal Shakespeare Company are palpably overfunded in comparison to regional theatre because there is a disgraceful waste at both."

Mr Hedley criticized the salary of nearly £50,000 paid to the RSC's joint director, Mr Trevor Nunn, who is at present on unpaid sabbatical.

"My actors get £95 to £125 a week and I get nearly £200 a week. That's a good salary for me but I'm running an organization with more than £500,000 turnover."

Mr William Weston, administrator of the Leeds Playhouse, said: "This clearly isn't a substantial improvement in arts funding and it will inevitably lead to further gradual erosion in the regions."

With one round to go, the grandmaster John Nunn leads with 6½ points followed by international masters, Nigel Short six, William Watson 5½, and Julian Hodgson 4½.

Then came the grandmaster Western (Finland) and the international master Murel (Israel) on 4, the grandmaster Modus (USA), and the international masters Plaskett (England) 3½, Ivanov (Canada) 3 and Burger (USA) 0.

The results in round eight on Monday were: Plaskett ½, Hodgson ½, Modus 1, Murel 0, Burger 0, Watson 1, Short 1, Ivanov 0, Western 1, Nunn ½.

In the ninth and last round yesterday, Short has black against Watson, he needs to win in order to gain the grandmaster norm and with it the title.

## Harrods car bomb policemen fight for their lives

By Michael Horsnell

The two policemen critically injured in the Harrods car bombing were fighting for their lives yesterday as more victims spoke of their ordeal.

PC John Gordon, aged 30, a dog handler who lost his right leg and fingers on his right hand, is in danger of losing his left leg. There is a possibility that he may lose it.

Surgeons were pleased with the way PC Gordon's wounds were healing, but his kidneys remained the main worry. Mr Lennox said: "He is on a haemo-dialysis machine and the major threat to his life is his kidney function."

Had PC Gordon not been at the peak of physical condition he would not have survived. He was aware he had lost a leg but did not know of the concern for his other leg.

Inquests on Sergeant Noel Lane and WPC Jane Arbuthnot, who died in the bombing, will be opened at Westminster Coroner's Court today. Their funerals will not be arranged until after the inquests.

At Harrods, Miss Arbuthnot's parents, accompanied by her two brothers and sister, walked silently past the place where she died. Mrs Susan Arbuthnot said: "I think Jane would have been pleased that we have come. That is why we are here."

Mrs Arbuthnot and her husband, John, bought dark scarves and two black ties at the store before being driven home by Sergeant Michael Thwaite, from Chelsea police station,

who was with Miss Arbuthnot when the bomb went off.

PC Gordon's wife, Sheila, aged 34, who is due to give birth to the couple's second child in February, has kept a bedside vigil at the hospital since Saturday's bombing. He joined the Metropolitan Police eight years ago and served with the Special Patrol Group before becoming a dog handler last year.

Iasp Dodd, who is in the intensive care unit at the Central Middlesex Hospital, which specializes in treating head injuries, was walking behind the police car when the bomb went off. He is married with three children. He joined the Metropolitan Police in 1968 and became an inspector at Chelsea police station in 1981.

Two of the three patients still detained at St Stephen's Hospital in Fulham, west London, paid tribute to the care they have received at the hospital, where dozens of off-duty staff came in on Saturday without being asked.

Mr Pradip Khaitan, aged 42, a solicitor from Calcutta on a week's business trip with his brother, and Mr Ken Ayres, aged 53, a chauffeur who was driving them in London, spoke of their ordeal.

The third victim still being treated at St Stephen's, Mrs Diane Michael, was said to be in a stable condition yesterday.

A man charged with making a hoax bomb call two days after the Harrods explosion, was remanded in custody by Old Street Magistrates' Court in London yesterday. Ian Samuda, aged 21, is accused of claiming that there was a bomb in Bond Street, Mayfair.

Mr Samuda, of Mandeville Street, Hackney, east London, elected to be tried by jury and was remanded until December 29.

## Sinn Fein to fight any political ban

From Richard Ford, Dublin

Leaders of Provisional Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Provisional IRA, would challenge any future ban on them by demonstrations and legal challenges.

If those failed the party would reconstitute under another name as it does not want to be driven underground. But its leaders are acutely aware of the propaganda value of any ban.

If the Government of the Irish Republic outlawed the party it would do so under the Offences Against the State Act, which carries a maximum penalty of seven years for belonging to a proscribed organization. Its 27 councillors would face arrest and its offices and *Republican News* would be closed.

The party dates from 1970 when the republican movement split over whether to drop its policy of not recognizing parliaments in Belfast and Dublin. Thirteen years later, it has adopted the radical left-wing policies favoured then by Official Sinn Fein now known as the Workers' Party.

Provisional Sinn Fein's membership is estimated at 2,000 in each part of Ireland. Support is strongest in urban areas of Northern Ireland and along the Republic's western seaboard.

In the republic the party has refused to register as a party to avoid tacitly recognizing a partitionist state - although in the 1979 local government elections it put up 106 candidates in the republic.

During the hunger strike of 1981 two prisoners won Dail seats in Cavan Monaghan and Lough.

Since 1981 begun the party has taken seats won in local council elections.

Its president Mr Gerry Adams, was elected Westminster MP for West Belfast, but has not taken his seat. The party has five abstaining members elected to the Northern Ireland Assembly.

However it will contest next year's EEC election and if successful would take any seats won. In the June general election the party secured more than 100,000 votes - 43 per cent of the nationalist vote.

The party is aiming to supplant the Social Democratic and Labour Party as the voice of northern nationalism. In the republic it believes that the deprivation and disillusion among young people is fertile ground for their political development.

In Northern Ireland the party has successfully used "community politics", operated through advice centres manned mostly by unemployed young people.

Candidates must support the armed struggle and canvas normally. Its general election manifesto demanded British withdrawal to be followed by radical left-wing policies that are the hallmark of the northern "young Turks" who dominate the party.

The policy for a federal Ireland was rejected in 1981 in favour of a unitary state, despite opposition from the leadership in the republic.

The party is governed by a 28-strong executive elected annually by secret ballot.

Politicians and civil servants in Northern Ireland believe that any proscription of Provisional Sinn Fein could be a fatal mistake because it would be used for international propaganda and probably aid recruitment.

## Home players dominate Brighton chess

From Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent, Brighton

With a strong entry comprising three grandmaster and seven international masters, the Brighton Computer Games Ltd. international tournament looks like ending in a resounding success for the England players who at the end of round eight, occupied all the leading places.

With one round to go, the grandmaster John Nunn leads with 6½ points followed by international masters, Nigel Short six, William Watson 5½, and Julian Hodgson 4½.

Then came the grandmaster Western (Finland) and the international master Murel (Israel) on 4, the grandmaster Modus (USA), and the international masters Plaskett (England) 3½, Ivanov (Canada) 3 and Burger (USA) 0.

The results in round eight on Monday were: Plaskett ½, Hodgson ½, Modus 1, Murel 0, Burger 0, Watson 1, Short 1, Ivanov 0, Western 1, Nunn ½.

In the ninth and last round yesterday, Short has black against Watson, he needs to win in order to gain the grandmaster norm and with it the title.

## Father whose beating blinded baby is jailed

A father who battered his crying baby son so badly that it is now permanently blind was jailed for 30 months by St Albans Crown Court yesterday.

The savage attack took place when the baby's screams disturbed the father who was trying to watch the television series *Night Rider*. The child's brain was bruised.

Jailing the father, aged 30, Judge J. Blonfield, QC, said: "You repeatedly struck that three-month-old baby across the face with such horrifying violence that it has caused him lasting injuries that will be with him until the day he dies."

Overseas selling prices: Austria 50p, Belgium 80p, Canada \$2.75, France 1.50, Germany 2.00, Italy 1.50, Japan 2.00, Netherlands 1.50, Portugal 1.50, Spain 1.50, Sweden 1.50, Switzerland 1.50, USA 1.50, West Germany 1.50, Yugoslavia 1.50.

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## One in four men admits driving above the drink limit after parties

By Kenneth Gosling

A pre-Christmas survey of almost 1,000 drivers has shown that nearly a quarter of the men questioned would drive home from a party knowing they were over the alcohol limit. And seven in 10 admit having driven after drinking more than two pints of beer.

This would be over the limit for most, but three out of five believe their driving would not be affected according to a Gallup poll carried out for the Legal and General insurance company.

One in five male drivers admitted having driven after drinking at least six pints.

Mr Brian Palmer, a Legal and General director, said the figures told only part of the story. "If this is what people willingly own up to, we can only shudder at what the full picture might be."

"When a jumbo jet crashes the whole world reads about it. Each year the number of people killed or injured in drink-driving accidents in Britain is equivalent to 77 jumbo jet disasters," Mr Palmer said.

One in 10 of all road accidents involves a drunk driver and the Government is spending £860,000 on a Christmas campaign.

Campaigns are ignored by more than 40 per cent of drivers, according to the survey. And even where a partner or a

friend has been chosen to drive home from a party, one in seven is likely to be near or over the limit.

Drivers also ignore the threat to their finances and their jobs if they have their licences suspended for at least a year. One estimate yesterday was that a driver in this position could have to pay between £10,000 and £12,000 to replace his normally car-borne activities, including his job.

Drivers also face a doubling of their premiums and a cut in cover from comprehensive to third party, especially if they have offended more than once.

Some companies protect valued members of staff by taking out cover with the St Christopher Motorists' Security Association, which gives a benefit of £3,000 for a three-star plan on a premium of £64 a year and £8,500 for a five-star policy which costs £175.

"We don't pick up the heavy drinkers," Mr Martin O'Neill, the company's managing director said. "We will not pay out if a motorist is over double the legal maximum. We don't want to be seen as a drunkards' charter."

"We normally acquire people in the professions who know they are at risk if they have one or two drinks. And it's a fallacy that it is just at this point in the year. During the summer is

when people are more relaxed and go out for a pint or two".

A copy of the Gallup poll, conducted nationally between December 7 and 12 among a representative sample, almost equally divided between the sexes, of 962 adults, has been sent to Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport.

Women were shown to be slightly more nervous when driving at public house closing times and a little more inclined than men to view the present penalties as not strict enough.

No women admitted having driven after drinking six or more pints of beer. But two per cent had, they said, taken between five and five-and-a-half pints.

● In its annual report the London Council on Alcoholism says it had more than 800 calls last year, 40 per cent from problem drinkers themselves. The total figure was 10 per cent up on last year, which had shown a rise of 20 per cent on the year before.

Among referrals the proportion of women was higher than that of men, although new clients referred by someone else showed a much higher proportion of men.

The age range is expanding, the report says, to include those under 20 and over 60.

## PC tells sex bias inquiry of warning

A police officer was given a warning that he would "lose out" if he continued to support a woman colleague in a sexual discrimination claim against the Metropolitan Police, an industrial tribunal in London was told yesterday.

Police Constable Trevor Atfield, aged 31, said that he was later transferred from the traffic division at Hampton, west London, to foot patrol in Notting Hill.

Mr Atfield, who is married and lives in Ashford, Surrey, was giving evidence at a hearing in which PC Wendy de Launay claimed sexual discrimination after being banned from making regular police patrols with him. She also alleges that she was victimized and transferred without consultation to another unit.

Mr Atfield claimed in his evidence: "I have been told I would lose out by supporting Miss de Launay."

Mr David Ellis, representing the Metropolitan Police, disputed the allegation but Mr Atfield said: "It is something I have remembered to this day."

The tribunal, now in its second day, has been told that Miss de Launay and Mr Atfield were traffic patrol partners at the Hampton police garage. They were split up after reports that a relationship had developed between them.

Miss de Launay, who is 25, claims that as a result she could not get the practice and instruction she required from a more senior officer in the handling of police patrol cars.

Both Miss de Launay and Mr Atfield deny suggestions that they were emotionally involved with each other.

Chief Inspector Brian Corbett, who was in charge at Hampton garage, said a sergeant told him that Miss de Launay and Mr Atfield were being sent together off duty. Rumours about their relationship were, he said, "affecting morale" at the garage and there was concern it could have repercussions on Mr Atfield's home life.

"We are not in the business of spying on officers in their private lives," Mr Corbett said. The hearing continues today.



PC Trevor Atfield and his former car patrol partner WPC Wendy de Launay in London yesterday.



## Divorced wives of clergy 'ostracized'

By David Cross

Many divorced wives of clergy will feel shabbily treated by the Church of England, in spite of official concern about their plight, according to a report published today.

The report, *Divorced Clergy Wives - One Year On*, has been written by Mr Frank Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead, and Mr Neil McIlwraith as a sequel to one published a year ago, *Walking on the Other Side*.

The results of the first report, which investigated 24 cases, showed that, with few exceptions, the church's embarrassment over the break-up of clerical marriages led to many wives feeling totally rejected by the authorities. Typical of the reactions was one woman who wrote: "It's a much bigger issue than they [the church] will admit. It embarrasses them and they try to sweep it under the carpet."

After the first report the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, said that he was concerned about the problem's scale and anxious for church authorities to respond constructively.

A second survey was commissioned by Mr Field to provide additional data for a working group set up by the House of Bishops. The main point was to discover whether the church's attitude in each diocese reflected the change and the goodwill expressed by senior officials.

But, the report says, many former clergy wives, who believe the church treated them badly in the past, said that there had been no change since the first survey.

Asked whether any contact had been made by the church during the past year to inquire about their circumstances, 20 of the 49 wives who agreed to be interviewed said "Yes". Four-

Time since a divorce was asked by a church official about her welfare	
Less than 1 year	20
Between 1 and 2 years	1
Between 2 and 5 years	1
Over 5 years	7
Uncertain/unclear	14
Never	1
Total	49

teen said that no such inquiry had ever been made.

Indeed, when the church had made contact, it had not always been to inquire about former wives and children. One respondent wrote that she had never been asked "except to check-up if I felt my ex-husband was suitable for a new job".

Explaining the isolation felt by many former wives, one wrote: "Since my divorce I have certainly been dropped by the establishment and people with whom one was constantly in contact have never initiated contact."

The report says that all too many wives reported that unless they went knocking very hard on certain doors, the church was not interested.

The survey also found that some former wives were unaware of the help which church charities like the Corporation of the Sons of Clergy and the Friends of the Clergy Corporation might be able to offer them. Of 23 divorced who had been in contact with charities, 19 had had their request completely or almost completely met.

Among the recommendations put forward in the report for easing the plight of former wives is a suggestion that the Church should consider the setting up of a full-time post with special responsibility for the problem.

In addition, the church should lay down central guidelines for help on offer.

## Hope denies taking fee for charity golf

Bob Hope, the comedian, has denied taking fees to appear at the charity golf tournament which bears his name.

Organizers of the tournament who have gone into liquidation had said Mr Hope was paid £88,000 in fees and £53,000 in expenses for the Bob Hope British Golf Classic.

Yesterday, however, Mr Hope said in a BBC radio interview: "I was never paid any money. The money that I was paid for, of course, went for the production and the whole thing. The money is for the production of the show, and the writers, and the expense - that's all."

"When you're bringing stars over and taking care of them and their fares, it's a hell of a lot of expense there."

## Horse stunt fall removed from new Bond film

The RSPCA has persuaded Warner Brothers, the makers of the new James Bond film *Never Say Never Again*, to cut one of the most dramatic scenes from the movie, plunging 40 feet into the sea and hitting the water on its back.

The RSPCA worked closely with the Board of British Film Censors to have the scene cut for British showing.

Its chief veterinary officer, Mr David Wilkins, said yesterday: "I was shocked when I saw uncut footage of the stunt. The horse was put in a wooden box on top of a scaffolding with a man and women stunt team. The box was tilted, and all three fell out."

"Warner Brothers say it was examined by a vet, who diagnosed no physical injury."

## Protest over driver's 9-month sentence

A driver who has twice been banned for drinking and driving was jailed for nine months yesterday for causing the death of a boy aged 14 by reckless driving.

Gordon Stratton, aged 24, who had been drinking before he knocked down the boy, Timothy Proctor, was fined and banned in 1979 for driving with excess alcohol. He was fined and banned again last September for a similar offence, committed when he was on bail awaiting trial for the charge concerning Timothy Proctor of Brancote Avenue, Miffham.

After the hearing, at the Central Criminal Court, the boy's father, Mr Bernard Proctor, described the nine-

month sentence as ludicrous and a disgusting insult.

Mr Proctor said he would see his MP and write to the Home Secretary about the case. "This smacks of cut-price justice because a charge of manslaughter was dropped," he said.

In court, Sir James Miskin, the Recorder of London, was told that Stratton, aged 24, was a school leaver, living at Miffham, south London, as they were changing to red and struck the boy.

Mr Bruce Houlder, for the prosecution, said that Stratton, passed by a tanker driver who had seen the incident, drove on at high speed, swerving violent-



Pilgrim's progress: Mgr James Horan, a master of politics. (Photograph: Terry Fincher).

## Knock airport A priest's dream or folly

By Richard Ford

The view from the 6,000ft runway of Ireland's proposed fourth international airport, perched 650ft above the sea on a boggy plateau, is awe-inspiring. When it is not shrouded in mist rising from the surrounding bog there are spectacular views of Croagh Patrick, Ireland's holy mountain on whose 2,510ft summit St Patrick allegedly spent the 40 days of Lent in the year 441.

To the south-east is the Marian Shrine at Knock, co Mayo, where in 1879 it is claimed there was an apparition of the Virgin Mary.

But the second miracle of Knock will need more than divine intervention if it is ever to be completed to help pilgrims on their faithful progress to the shrine.

Viewed from Dublin the airport is "Knock nonsense". Dr Garret Fitzgerald's coalition government of Fine Gael and Labour will not spend the further £4m (Irish) needed to provide runway lighting, security, air traffic control, and a terminal building for the grandly-titled Connacht Regional Airport.

The republic's newest airport is destined to remain as "sheer lunacy".

But with political stability, Dr Fitzgerald has decided no more money should be spent. However, with another poll the wily priest may still get his money from public funds to complete the airport.

As one of the company's directors, Dr Joseph Cunnane, the Archbishop of Tuam, said: "It could be a big political embarrassment for Fine Gael as they are the party that stopped this development. This is Fionna Fail territory and Fine Gael has a seat which election."

Mr Horan cleverly played the "deprived West" card, and was delighted at all the publicity surrounding the airport because it was attracting more of the faithful to the Marian Shrine. And the singer Christy Moore has immortalized it with the ballad "The Miracle Airport Knock".

However, the Government's decision against the airport meant disappointment for the cleric who had hoped that by 1985 jumbo jets would be

with the project that was being dismissed privately as "sheer lunacy".

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However, the Government's decision against the airport meant disappointment for the cleric who had hoped that by 1985 jumbo jets would be



landing pilgrims on their way to Knock. He dreamed of a traditional Irish airport with peat fires in the terminal lounges. His plan allowed for only nine full-time staff assisted by part-time workers supplementing their meagre farm incomes.

Instead of few trucks to pull the aircraft from the apron to the runway, he had the original concept of letting farmers use their tractors to do the job and hoped that the spin-off would provide industry for the area and make the airport a tourist attraction in its own right because of its beautiful position.

Politicians in the republic will be relieved that Mgr Horan has no further grandiose ideas which might involve public money. He is now to concentrate on something less costly: preparing his own soul before death.

## Six jailed for huge bullion tax fraud

A former bank robber, Ronald Dark, and Old Harrovian Spencer Eade, had one thing in common: a taste for wealth. It led them to join a gang of gold swindlers who made a profit of at least £6m from a value-added tax fraud.

At the Central Criminal Court yesterday they and four others were jailed and fined. Customs officers believe that other members of the gang are living abroad "in style".

Judge Sutcliffe had postponed sentencing the group for two weeks so that the Customs and Excise could investigate where the proceeds of the fraud were.

A substantial amount is now understood to have been traced, although nearly £2m was mysteriously withdrawn from the Credit Suisse bank in Switzerland.

Eade, a former Ministry of Defence information officer and an arms exporter, used his company to import gold ingots from Switzerland, the court was told.

With his legitimate firm, Scan Defence International, he could defer paying VAT on the gold for three months. It was that which allowed the swindle to operate.

In three months the group traded in £40m worth of bullion. It was sold to dealers who were charged 15 per cent VAT which was then pocketed by the group.

Eade, described as an intelligent ring leader by Judge Sutcliffe, was jailed for a total of three and a half years and fined £90,000 with nine months to pay. Eade, of Dellynn, Portlaoise, East Sussex, had denied fraud.

Dark, of Preston Road, Wembley, north-west London, who was released from prison in 1979, admitted his part as a "front man" for the group. He was jailed for 12 months and fined £3,000 with six months to pay.

Len Berry, aged 47, a company director, of the Houseboat, Taggs Island, Hampton, south-west London, his wife Freda, aged 44, Christopher Michel, aged 43, a public relations consultant, of Greenstead House, Coombe Hill Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex; and Terence Ward, aged 42, a salesman, of Cranford, central London, had all denied their part in the fraud.

Berry, also described as a ringleader, was jailed for five and a half years and fined £120,000. His wife, who acted as a bookkeeper in the fraud, was jailed for two years with one year suspended.

Michel was jailed for four years and fined £100,000 and Ward was jailed for 18 months. Criminal bankruptcy orders were made against all defendants except Dark and Ward.

ONCE upon a time, a young girl called Little Red Riding-Hood set off alone through the Great Wood to visit her grandmother.

Being a kindly girl, she took along with her a basket full of good things including a bottle of Croft Particular, a light, crisp sherry that was the old lady's, special favourite.

After walking for some while, she reached her grandmother's cottage in the middle of the wood, and soon sensed that something was wrong.

"Oh, Grandma!", she cried. "What big eyes you have!" "All the better to see you with", replied the Wolf, who wasn't actually looking at Little Red Riding-Hood, but at the bottle of Croft Particular in her basket.

"What a big nose you have!", she cried. "All the better to smell you with", said the Wolf, though he had just poured himself a glass of the Particular, and was at that moment savouring its delicate bouquet.

"And what a big mouth you have!", cried Red Riding-Hood. "All the better for drinking with", said the Wolf, taking an appreciative slurp and licking his lips. "Mmm... I do enjoy a glass of good sherry before a meal".



SLIGHTLY LIGHTER. SLIGHTLY LESS TRADITIONAL. TO BE ENJOYED SLIGHTLY MORE OFTEN.



# Minister declines to intervene in Scott Lithgow

## SHIPBUILDING

The record of the British Shipbuilding yard of Scott Lithgow on keeping to budget and to time was abysmal, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during question time in the Commons.

Mrs Donald Stewart (Western Isles, SNP) had asked: Is she aware of the impending industrial disaster and human tragedy in the West of Scotland with the possible closure of the Scott Lithgow yard? Would she have negotiations to see whether that contract can be renegotiated, otherwise there will be a tremendous disaster for the West of Scotland, and in the light of the money spent on nuclear weapons it would be a drop in the ocean to save those jobs?

Mrs Thatcher: Competition for both ships and for oil rigs is very great and the only conditions to have employment is by keeping customers. That means building ships and oil rigs to budget and on time and I very much regret the record of that particular yard in that respect is abysmal.

There are two other things in that yard, one is a ship for the MOD and the other is an oil rig and British Shipbuilders will be considering how best to continue to build these in view of the difficulties they face in any negotiations they may be able to have.

Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Industry, said in a statement: In December 1981 Scott Lithgow contracted with British Shipbuilders to produce a semi-submersible drilling rig. The contract value was £88.6m and the contractual delivery date was April 1984. Construction began in February 1982.

By March 1983, British Shipbuilders had provided for losses of £43.8m on the rig. The then chairman, Sir Robert Atkinson, warned that performance and losses at Scott Lithgow were unacceptable.

On October 31 1983, British Shipbuilders were sufficiently concerned about progress on the contract to issue through its agents a notice requiring Scott Lithgow to demonstrate within 30 days that the rig could be completed by February 1985.

Scott Lithgow responded to British Shipbuilders by arguing that despite the undoubted delays on the contract, completion would be possible within the terms of the contract.

However, on 19 December a notice of cancellation was served on behalf of British Shipbuilders on Scott Lithgow had not demon-

strated that the rig could be delivered by February 1985.

BS have responded to the cancellation notice by disputing its validity and I understand that they have now instituted legal proceedings.

While BS and British Shipbuilders are considering the next step in this negotiation, all work on the rig will be stopped. BS are instructing suppliers to suspend work on contracts relating to the rig. Up to 2,000 of the workforce are involved in construction of the rig.

The remainder of the workforce - approximately 2,250 men - are employed on two other contracts: one for BP and one for the Ministry of Defence. It is BS's intention that these contracts will continue.

Unemployment in this area is already high and a further increase in scale implied by the cancellation of this order would be a matter of deep concern to the Government. The Secretary of State for Scotland has this morning met the Scottish TUC and told them that he would of course seek to do all he can to alleviate the very real distress that would be caused in the local community.

However, the offshore industry is highly competitive and customers insist upon contractors - including management and workforce - delivering on quality, price and time. Regrettably Scott Lithgow so far appears to have been unable to satisfy British Shipbuilders that it can fulfil its obligations on this contract.

Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said in a statement: In December 1981 the Scottish TUC and told them that he would of course seek to do all he can to alleviate the very real distress that would be caused in the local community.

It is (he said) for the minister and the Government to call in the parties and insist on a solution. Why has he not done so already? He has known for months that these losses have been building up.

If this shipyard were to close, 4,250 jobs would be directly at risk, not 2,250. Another 4,000 were directly engaged in ancillary work and contracting, so they were talking about a total of something over 8,000.

Scott Lithgow was the lead yard designated by British Shipbuilders for offshore construction and was building probably the most advanced semi-submersible rig that we had ever marketed, to operate in deep Atlantic waters, a far more sophisticated rig than had so far had to operate even in the deep waters of the North Sea.

It is absurd (he continued) that the future of this yard and of this

industry should be left to litigation by one wholly-owned, public corporation against another 48 per cent-owned public corporation while the chairman of BS himself has departed for a three week holiday abroad.

The minister should accept his own responsibility. He cannot simply sit on his hands while a major new high technology industry in Scotland is allowed to collapse. We will not allow him to.

Mr Lamont said the Government had kept in close touch with the situation in the contract. This was a serious matter but it was a commercial dispute between BS and British Shipbuilders. Both sides had taken decisions which they judged to be in their best commercial interest.

If the Government were to intervene (he continued) either by urging British Shipbuilders to withdraw its notice or by negotiating the contract, which they did not wish to do, the commercial and financial position of one party or the other would be severely prejudiced and the ground would be cut from under the feet of both managements. Government intervention would be only counterproductive (Labour intervention).

The Government had to consider not just the yard but the taxpayers who had funded huge losses by Scott Lithgow, almost £44m on this contract. Some £66m out of the losses of £117m that BS announced last year came from Scott Lithgow.

Did Mr Shore suggest that the Government put more money into Scott Lithgow?

Mr Shore asked Mr Lamont if he was saying that this was entirely a commercial matter for the two parties and that either now or at the end of the legal procedure he did not accept that he had a separate role to look after the national interest, in so far as it was involved in the future of this industry?

Mr Lamont replied that of course there was a national interest but this interest was not to pour good money after bad (Labour interruptions).

Taxpayers must be considered. BS did not wish to be forced to renegotiate the contract. If this was what Mr Shore suggested, he was saying that the Government should encourage them to take risks, to incur costs they did not wish to undertake. That could damage not only BS but other contractors they were working on.

Mr Anna McCauley (Renfrew, West and Inverclyde, C) will the

Government consider the possibility of a nationalised shipbuilding industry?

Mr Lamont: I do not see how it could be remotely described as a nationalised industry. It is a commercial matter. It is the inefficiency, poor performance and massive losses. They have gone on for many years and the men at Scott Lithgow have been warned about that.

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party: He is pushing the laissez faire philosophy of this Government to preposterous lengths.

Mr Lamont: I do not see how it could be remotely described as a nationalised industry. It is a commercial matter. It is the inefficiency, poor performance and massive losses. They have gone on for many years and the men at Scott Lithgow have been warned about that.

Mr Bruce Millan (Glasgow, Govan, Lab): This contract can be saved. These jobs can be saved. It will be cheaper for the public purse at the end of the day if the contract is renegotiated. If the Government does not intervene in this they will not be forgiven in Scotland.

Mr Lamont: I do not see how it could be remotely described as a nationalised industry. It is a commercial matter. It is the inefficiency, poor performance and massive losses. They have gone on for many years and the men at Scott Lithgow have been warned about that.

Mr Roy Jenkins (Glasgow, Hillhead, SDP): However much Mr Lamont may talk about commercial considerations and competitiveness, this stand off approach which he has taken today to the death of an industry and two towns is something which would not be allowed to happen in any other industry.

Mr Lamont: It will not be the death of an industry. There are other yards which are involved in this industry.

I cannot believe in many countries the government would have gone on funding losses year after year at this Government has done with Scott Lithgow.

Mr David Knox (Staffordshire, Moorlands, C): There is deep public concern about village school closures. Publication of guidelines on the size of schools, distances from alternative schools, travel conditions and so on would help to reassure people.

Mr Dunn: We have made this known from time to time. There may be some who are going to be disappointed by the guidelines, but they are necessary. Where this is so, the minister decides accordingly; where there are no such reasons it is not sensible to devote scarce educational resources to keeping excess places in use. This diverts resources from better use, perhaps in a school in another village.

Mr Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, said during question time that he would shortly be discussing with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Security (Mr Nicholas Fowler) recommendations made in a recent report published by Youth aid unemployment benefit.

He said the report gave a useful indication of the use of the 21-hour rule in further education colleges and schools and proposed ways of improving access to education for the unemployed.

Mr Michael Colvill (Romney and Watlington, C): The 21-hour rule will be extremely useful for young people coming off the youth training scheme. What is the department doing to persuade those colleges which do not offer 21-hour study to do so?

Mr Keith Joseph: I agree that it will be a useful option for those concerned while they are seeking

jobs, particularly since the qualification of three months unemployment has been removed by the Department of Health and Social Security. On his second point, I am considering ways what ways are open to us.

Mr Barry Sheerman, an Opposition spokesman on education (Huddersfield): This Christmas, 25 per cent of teenagers are on the dole. Many of them would very much like to pursue further education rather than merely signing on the dole.

The whole interface between the availability of work, the eligibility of benefit and the ability to qualify for the youth training scheme is a mess that is not understood by DHSS managers and local education authorities. The result is that many young men and women who would like to pursue education are forced not to be able to.

Mr Keith Joseph: He limits his remarks to teenagers. There are very few 16-year-olds as a proportion of that village on the dole.

The 21-hour rule is an extremely useful option for those who wish to do some part-time study while waiting for employment.

Mr Peter Brooke, Under Secretary of State for Education and Science, told the Commons that discussions were taking place with the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education about the role the institute might play in these circumstances.

Mr Jack Dorman (Easington, Lab): In view of the pathetic record of this Government in adult continuing education, the decision not to set up a development council is a clear indication they do not have any interest whatever in this.

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# Noraid money going to those who pursue violence

## TERRORISM

Mrs Thatcher coupled a condemnation of financial support for Noraid, the fund-raising organisation for the IRA in the United States, with agreement that most American and Irish people condemned violence as a means of pursuing political ends.

The Prime Minister was responding to questions in the Commons asking her to endorse the line taken by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, about Noraid, and another calling on her to dampen hysteria about Irish-American support for violence in Northern Ireland.

Mr Michael Colvill (Romney and Watlington, C) said: The tragic death of an American citizen and the injury of others.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition: Endorsing the views of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland given on American television yesterday, the House will want to commend the helpful and forthright response of Dr Garret Fitzgerald and the positive statements by the American Ambassador on Saturday's atrocity.

What consideration has been given to increasing formal joint efforts between governments to block off the flow of munitions and money to terrorists, wherever such resources come from?

Mrs Thatcher: I am grateful to Mr Kinnock. Dr Fitzgerald was sympathetic and sent a very sympathetic message. I was able to congratulate him on the tremendous efforts in the Republic to secure the release of Mr Tidy. That resulted in the death of two of their security guards.

Cooperation is close between the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Republic in trying to block off munitions, or if they get over, in trying to find them.

The destruction and damage caused in the Republic by the activities of the IRA is very dangerous to the Republic. We therefore both cooperate in

these matters to the maximum extent. I am also grateful for what the American Ambassador said when he came to see me last evening.

Mr John Hume (Foye, SDLP): Will the Prime Minister dampen the hysteria in this country about Irish-American support for violence in Northern Ireland? The vast majority of Irish-Americans - and there are 44 million of them - do not support violence, and that opposition is forcibly, strongly and constructively expressed by their leaders like Speaker O'Neill, Senator Kennedy and Mr Moynihan.

Mrs Thatcher: The overwhelming majority of the American people and the Irish and those in prominent positions condemn violence as a means of pursuing political ends.

Violence is a negation of democracy. We pursue democracy.

Parliament today Commons (2.30): Housing and Building Control Bill, remaining Lords (11): Coal Industry Bill, Reparation of Prisoners Bill, and Welfare Bill, second reading.

Expenditure targets set for some Welsh councils: low rate rises forecast

Wales Expenditure targets set for some Welsh local authorities for 1984-85 are tough for some but reasonable for all, Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, said in a statement to the Commons on the fourth day of the session.

Mr Edwards said: I have today announced to the Welsh Consultative Council on Local Government Finance the details of the 1984-85 rate support grant settlement.

The main features of the 1984-85 settlement confirm the intentions I announced in November. They must be seen in the context of the Government's continuing commitment of secure reductions in public expenditure. The total of relevant expenditure provision accepted for grants is £1,460m. This compares with £1,250m for current expenditure and £187m for non-current items.

Aggregate exchequer grant will be £996m, consisting of £138.8m for specific grants, £31m for transport supplementary grants, £1.9m for national parks supplementary grants and £824.3m for the rate support grants. Domestic rate relief is unchanged at 19.4p in the pound which costs £25.3m, leaving £799m for distribution as block grant.

The settlement is a fair one. Current expenditure provision, after allowing for the 1.4 per cent reduction in authorities' national insurance surcharge from April and the way in which housing benefit administration costs are now counted for rate support grant purposes, is £57m or 4.8 per cent more than the provision underlying the 1983-84 settlement.

Aggregate exchequer grant at £996m is £21m or 2.2 per cent more than the aggregate exchequer grant provision in the main rate support grant settlement for the current year. Even more important, for rating purposes it is £36m or 3.8 per cent higher than the amount authorities have included in their budgets for the present year.

As in the present year and preceding one I have set individual authority expenditure targets. Experience has shown that these are helpful to authorities in providing a degree of certainty of grant entitlement for spending, and grant and clearly exert a significant influence on expenditure decisions.

In the light of the views expressed by the two Welsh local authority associations I have retained the same method for determining next year's expenditure targets as that used in the current year. It enables me to withhold grant to an equitable way by ensuring that the

amount of grant withheld from an authority directly related to its own overspending and not to the expenditure decisions of other authorities.

The targets I have set are very tough for some authorities - but are reasonable for all. Every authority target gives a cash increase in its current expenditure: the minimum increase is 1.4 per cent and the maximum 6 per cent, after making allowance for the reduction in the national insurance surcharge next year and a modest amount of budget drift.

The grant withholding penalty for spending in excess of targets has been strengthened. As in the present year the amount of grant withheld for excess expenditure up to 1 per cent above target is 40 per cent of that excess but above that level the percentage of block grant increases progressively with the excess, reaching 90 per cent for authorities spending 5 per cent or more above target: this compares with a maximum rate of

expenditure. Some progress has been made on this front but there is still some way to go. Since 1978/79 the Local Government current expenditure in Wales has risen by about 2 per cent more than the increase in costs for the economy as a whole. We must reverse this trend.

Clearly if authorities are to meet their targets for next year this growth on manpower must be reversed. I appreciate of course that authorities have difficult choices of priority to make but that applies in all areas of public expenditure, including my own programmes.

What happens to rates next year will of course depend on the decisions of authorities themselves. Here I will simply make two points. Authorities can on average increase their net revenue expenditure next year by nearly 4 per cent and still spend in line with targets. And if authorities spend at this level and apply only half of the balances they have applied in the present year, rate increases would average only 1 per cent. Indeed rates could fall if authorities applied balances to the same extent as in the current year.

There are some very large variations from these figures which have been banded about; for example the average rate increase of 17 per cent reported in the press. I regard this figure as wildly exaggerated and simply do not believe it.

Mr Barry Jones, chief Opposition spokesman on Wales (Alyn and Deeside, D): It is a flagrant act of injustice to impose even more impossible targets and tougher penalties on authorities who cannot cut services and have genuinely tried to restrain expenditure. How can we ever again see local elections as having real meaning?

The cumulative effect of the statutory increases in the average rate increases a substantial average rate increase of 17 per cent.

This is a black day for local government in Wales. This statement and the new Bill indicate that the Government are advancing a form of bureaucratic dictatorship forcing councils to be the very executors of their own services. Increasingly there is a flavour of colonial government about the Secretary of State which is not appreciated in Wales.

Mr Edwards: His predecessor made exactly the same forecast double figure rate increases, but rate increases in Wales have averaged less than 1 per cent. His exaggerated claims this year will prove equally unfounded.

Exactly the same things were said last year, and 32 out of 45 authorities achieved the targets that I had set without any penalty.

I am confident that Welsh local authorities will be able to provide a high level of services within the expenditure I have announced.

There is a continuing need for restraint in local government

could tip over into a pocket-lining exercise on the part of certain individuals or companies for the benefit of a few reckless or dishonest people. Mr David Mettler, Under-Secretary of State for Home Affairs, said in replying to a Commons debate on charities early this (Tuesday) morning.

He said there was room for professionals - people doing the job for money - in this scheme, but it is in no way a charitable scheme, as any other. But there came a point where professional fund-raising

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Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

Why has the Conservative lead in the opinion polls narrowed so sharply? Perhaps, after the Government's series of misfortunes in the past six months, we should be asking: Why are the Conservatives still ahead at all?

There is always likely to be an early public reaction against a party that wins a massive election victory. No government would find it easy to live up to that kind of majority that Mrs Thatcher won in June. Only Mrs Thatcher would do, and Mrs Thatcher has been distinctly short of miracles in her second term.

Perhaps the very size of the majority has bred complacency on the front bench and restlessness on the backbenches. Perhaps Mr Francis Pym's dire prophecy is already being borne out. Perhaps, but while I am sure that Mr Pym was right, I am not sure that large majorities are not conducive to good government. I am doubtful if it has much to do with the Government's present discontents.

A large majority was not the cause of Mr Parkinson's troubles. It was no more than marginally relevant to the mishandling of the capital punishment debate or the muddle over MPs' pay. It had absolutely nothing to do with Grenada. The banana skins were not wheeled along by surplus Conservative MPs. That they arrived so closely together was largely bad luck.

If the Government's difficulties could be attributed solely to the banana skins, it would not need to worry too much. It could reasonably hope that its luck would turn in good time. But there has also been a much more damaging impression that the Government has in general lost its way, that having won a majority it has mislaid its strategy.

Intentions radical but plans limited

No minister can command confidence if they give the impression of not knowing quite what it is they are trying to do. Is this still a radical, reforming administration? Or has it become a government consolidation?

There are two tests to apply in attempting to discover any government's intentions: the test of planning and the test of rhetoric. Early this year it became fashionable to say that Mrs Thatcher needed a new mandate before embarking on her more radical plans for transforming the British economy and society. Then, when the mandate was obtained, it became clear that, while her inclinations were radical, her plans were limited.

The Government was equipped to push ahead with the privatization of industry and further union reform. There were also the proposals for abolishing the metropolitan counties and restricting rate rises, but those could hardly be regarded as central to the Thatcherite strategy. Beyond those areas the Government was in no position to be radical because it had neither prepared, nor prepared the country for, its plans.

This need not have given an impression of drift if Conservative rhetoric had indicated that the second Thatcher Administration would concentrate on efficient management with some measured change. But the rhetoric was confusing. Mrs Thatcher's style remained radical, but the substance of her campaign was cautious.

Increase in income tax foreshadowed

The signals have remained uncertain. During the election there was no indication that public expenditure would have to be reduced. Then Mr Lawson took his first opportunity as the new Chancellor to ring the alarm bells.

By the time of the party conference he was proclaiming that tax cuts were to be a high priority, and that high growth which would be necessary for non-inflationary tax cuts - could be achieved only by lower government spending. At the same time Mr Biffen was declaring that there was not much scope for reducing public spending overall.

A month later Mr Lawson himself, when producing his autumn statement, foreshadowed an increase in income tax. A number of his colleagues do not seem to believe that that will be necessary.

Perhaps he was simply seeking to ensure that any tax cut would take the country by surprise, but he will do this only by giving the impression of taking himself by surprise.

It is this kind of uncertainty as to where the Government's strategy is taking it that is more unsettling than any number of banana skins. Luck may change. Confusion needs to be corrected.

Genetic engineering: 3

Super mice lead the field

Outsize mice scampering around a veterinary research laboratory in the United States are the most striking demonstration so far of the potential of genetic engineering to transform mammals, including humans.

Genetic manipulation of higher animals and plants is perhaps seven or eight years behind the research on simple single-cell bacteria, described in the first article of this series. The complex arrangement of the material (DNA) in animal and plant chromosomes is not understood well enough for scientists to splice in a particular gene and make it work in the correct tissues at the right time.

But the "giant mice" experiment, a collaborative effort by Dr Richard Palmiter, of the University of Washington in Seattle, and Dr Ralph Brinster, of the University of Pennsylvania, shows what can be achieved with our present imperfect understanding. Dr Brinster injected many copies of a rat growth hormone gene produced by Dr Palmiter into fertilized mouse eggs which were then implanted in foster mother mice.

Some of the resulting baby mice grew to twice normal size, stimulated by high levels of the hormone and, most significantly, they passed the genes on to their own offspring. The original line of double-sized mice, carrying eight rat hormone genes, is now in its fourth generation, and the laboratory has recently produced a similarly sized strain with human growth hormone genes.

Direct micro-injection of DNA is a hit-or-miss method of transforming mammalian eggs; fewer than half of Dr Brinster's mice successfully incorporated the genes, and other laboratories have had less success. From a technical point of

view, similar experiments could be performed on human eggs, but they would be morally unacceptable, given all the uncertainties. The potential for transforming farm animals is immense, however, and breeders of pigs, sheep, cattle and poultry are rushing to exploit genetic engineering. The first results are likely within two or three years.

Although the most important traits in domestic animals, such as fertility, are affected by a large number of unknown genes, the giant mice experiment showed what impact a single gene could have on the complex process of growth. The overall effect of such a simple transformation remains to be seen; suddenly doubling the size of pigs, for example, could cause breeding or health problems.

Where particular proteins are important for an agricultural product, such as casein in milk and keratin in wool, improvement through genetic engineering should not be difficult. There is also scope for inserting individual genes which confer resistance to certain animal diseases or which change the reproductive system (for instance a twinning gene is known in sheep).

But plants contribute more than animals to world food supplies, and an even bigger agricultural research effort is devoted to their genetic manipulation. This year, plant engineers have passed several milestones on the road to an arable paradise of nutritious crops growing faster than

today's, whatever the weather, without added pesticides or fertilizers.

● A bacterial gene for resistance to an antibiotic worked in petunia cells, the first success with foreign DNA in plant cells.

● Tobacco plantlets produced a bean protein, the first genetic transformation of whole plants.

● Tobacco was given a hybrid gene that not only conferred antibiotic resistance but also was switched on by light and off by darkness, a key step towards regulating the function of genetically engineered plants.

Progress has been most rapid in broad-leaved plants, such as tobacco and petunia, for two important reasons. First, scientists have found a natural carrier, called the Ti plasmid, which readily inserts foreign DNA into their cells. Second, the regeneration of a whole plant from a single cell is possible for certain broad-leaved species.

Unfortunately, neither technique is yet applicable to staple crops such as rice, wheat and maize.

However, plant scientists such as Dr John Ingle, who heads the Agricultural Research Council's genetic engineering programme, report rapid progress. Genetic manipulation of any plant will soon be possible.

The most glamorous ambition of plant engineering is to make all crops take their own nitrogen from the air, as clover and beans already do, with the help of bacteria living in their roots. One of the greatest constraints on world food production would disappear if farmers no longer had to spend millions on nitrogen fertilizers.

The 17 genes involved in bacterial nitrogen fixation are all known. The main problem in transferring them to plants is that the chemical process works only when oxygen is excluded. The bacteria can keep out oxygen but it may be extremely difficult to achieve similar conditions within wheat cells. However, Dr Ingle says: "I do not think this is as far-fetched as one might think."

Even less far-fetched is genetic engineering of humans, the most exciting and emotive of all applications. Many researchers expect serious clinical trials to begin within five to ten years, treating inherited diseases by correcting a faulty gene or inserting a good new gene.

Many people react strongly against the idea of tampering with the genetic make-up of humanity as it has evolved. Few, however, could object to "phenotypic" therapy, a disease by the aim of curing a disease by changing the genes in, for example, blood cells, for the lifetime of an individual.

Concluded

Challenge on new police powers fails

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Opposition attempts to provide more safeguards against controversial police powers of search and seizure in the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill were defeated yesterday.

The powers were relevant to police action against terrorism, Mr Eldon Griffiths, Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds, said during the Bill's committee stage in the Commons.

Acting on information, the police might wish to enter a "safe house", he said. Terrorists might not have left behind pistols and explosives, but letters and bills relating to cars or parking tickets might be there.

Mr Griffiths said that in themselves they might not be fundamental to trial but they would be fundamental to the task of tracing terrorists and apprehending them.

The clause dealt only with serious arrestable offences. The Opposition sought changes to the Bill to make sure that evidence being sought by the police was of direct substantial value in building up the case, not incidental to the trial.

Mr Alf Dubs, Labour MP for Battersea, said:

Police asking for a warrant should have to state how the evidence in question could help with the inquiry.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Home Office, said the hurdles to be jumped in obtaining a warrant were already high.

His worry was that if the law was tightened still further, the power in the Bill could not be operated at all.

Mr Stuart Bell, Labour MP for Middlesbrough, added there was a danger that a serious extension of police powers would be rubber-stamped if entry and search of premises could be authorized by a magistrate.

The Opposition felt that power to grant a search warrant should be held by a circuit judge who would have experience and independence of mind and be able to see that the police were not launching a fishing expedition.

Mr Hurd said the Government agreed that where confidential material was involved, the hearing for the granting of a search warrant should be at a judicial level. But where it was not, magistrates should be empowered to issue the warrant.

The so-called mainstream factions, which elected Mr Nakasone last year, continue to support him. This includes the largest, whose leader, former Prime Minister Mr Kakuei Tanaka, was largely responsible for calling the election. Parliamentary turmoil emerged after Mr Tanaka was convicted of bribery on October 12 in the Lockheed scandal.

The party's handling of Post-convention anti-Tanaka moves by the opposition proved a serious liability, although Mr Tanaka was re-elected by a landslide in his rural home district of Niigata.

Japan's poll gloom turns to relief

From Richard Hanson, Tokyo

Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party yesterday began putting itself back together after tumbling dangerously near to disaster in Sunday's general election.

Investors appeared reassured that the party would continue its rule, unbroken since 1955. The popular Miki Dow Jones indicator of stock market performance leapt 143.76 points to a new record high of 9,627.98 after dropping sharply when the party's majority seemed in doubt on Monday morning. The yen also gained against the dollar - up 1.3 to 235.05.

Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, was officially able to add eight successful conservative independent candidates to the party roster, thus regaining a thin simple majority, with 258 seats in the 511-member Lower House, which is expected to convene to elect the Prime Minister early next week. The party won only 250 seats, an unexpected setback which had briefly knocked the wind out of the equity and exchange markets a day earlier.

But Mr Nakasone faces a tough few days. Yesterday, he called a Cabinet meeting in which he reportedly said he was sorry for the result. Three ministers - defence, transport and education - were defeated on Sunday.

For the first time since the communists won the war in 1973, American troops today are making an on-the-ground search for missing US servicemen in Indo-China. They are investigating a jungle site near Pakse, in southern Laos where an American transport aircraft was shot down by anti-aircraft fire 11 years ago, killing 16 Air Force men. The remains of 13 were never recovered.

Communist authorities have never before permitted the Americans to search for 2,500 men still unaccounted for. The gesture by Laos, which said that it had changed its policy for humanitarian reasons, could influence future relations between Washington and communist Indo-China.

An official American spokesman in Bangkok said that his Government was encouraged by the attitude of the Laotians. The Americans had been trying unsuccessfully for years to enter Laos and Vietnam to seek the remains of missing Americans.

The question of the missing Americans has been a serious impediment to the normalization of relations between the US and Vietnam, and, therefore, US officials regard this new concession as a breakthrough which could lead to American recognition of Vietnam.

Testing time for Mrs Gandhi

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, and her Congress (I) Party have set themselves a big test for this Friday. They have arranged a series of by-elections to the Lower House of Parliament, the Lok Sabha, and to legislative assemblies in five states.

The five states are all in the north of India, and the test is plainly intended to assess the ruling party's strength in the so-called Hindi belt of the Gangetic plains. This is where the main strength of Mrs Gandhi's Congress Party has lain, and here she must win convincingly in any general election she is to hold on to power securely.

The by-elections will tell her whether her standing has been affected by the recent scandal over adulteration of imported cooking oil with beef dripping. Hindus all over the country, who revere the cow as a sacred animal, now find they have committed the unpardonable sin of ingesting beef fat - albeit unwittingly - as a result, they feel of government laxity in granting import licences.

The by-elections will also tell the party leaders whether they still have the support of the minorities, since there is a good deal of Muslim voting strength in the constituencies picked for the contests.

If Congress can win and win well, the plenary party congress that meets in Calcutta on December 27 will turn into an

announcing ceremony before an early general election, which must be held before the end of next year: the most likely times are in the relatively mild months of March or November. The by-elections are also a testing time for some political heavyweights. Mr Chandra Shekhar Singh, for example, who was recently made Chief Minister of Bihar in place of the discredited Dr Jagannath Mishra, has to win election to the state assembly and has chosen to do so in Banka, a seat which he could lose.

This rather obscure and scruffy town has become the political capital of the state overnight. State ministers are all there, campaigning busily, and showing themselves - at last - to be in touch with their people.

Friday's voting will also be the first big test of the new

alignments of the opposition parties. The two main opposition groups - the United Front which centres on the Janata party, and the National Democratic Alliance, combining the Lok Dal of Charan Singh with the Bharatiya Janata Party - have failed to agree on an electoral pact.

The United Front wanted a proportional distribution of seats among all the opposition parties. The NDA, blunty refused, saying that its parties had either won or been runners-up in every constituency where elections are being held. This has inevitably meant a splintering of the opposition effort, and Congress may gain thereby. The general secretary of the BJP, however, thinks that the triangular voting actually benefits the oppositions. "No

A decisive victory for the opposition parties will no doubt help the two alliances over a early slump in their morale: a bad defeat may galvanize them into closer relations. The voting will also help to adjudicate the differing claims of electoral strength, among the factions. At stake are three Lok Sabha seats - in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Haryana - and 11 assembly seats in those three, plus West Bengal and Rajasthan. Vacant seats in the south have been ignored for the exercise, even though there are 13 Lok Sabha seats and 19 assembly seats vacant throughout the country.

Americans search for their dead in Laos

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

For the first time since the communists won the war in 1973, American troops today are making an on-the-ground search for missing US servicemen in Indo-China. They are investigating a jungle site near Pakse, in southern Laos where an American transport aircraft was shot down by anti-aircraft fire 11 years ago, killing 16 Air Force men. The remains of 13 were never recovered.

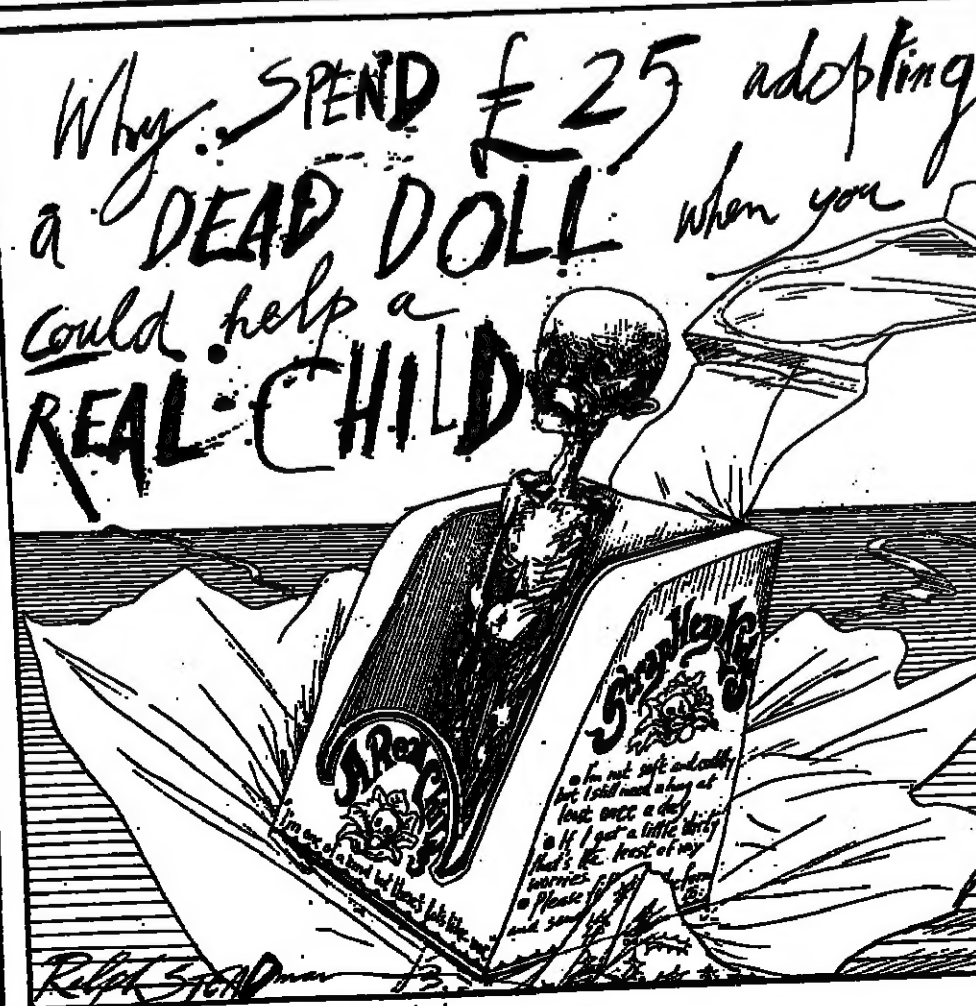
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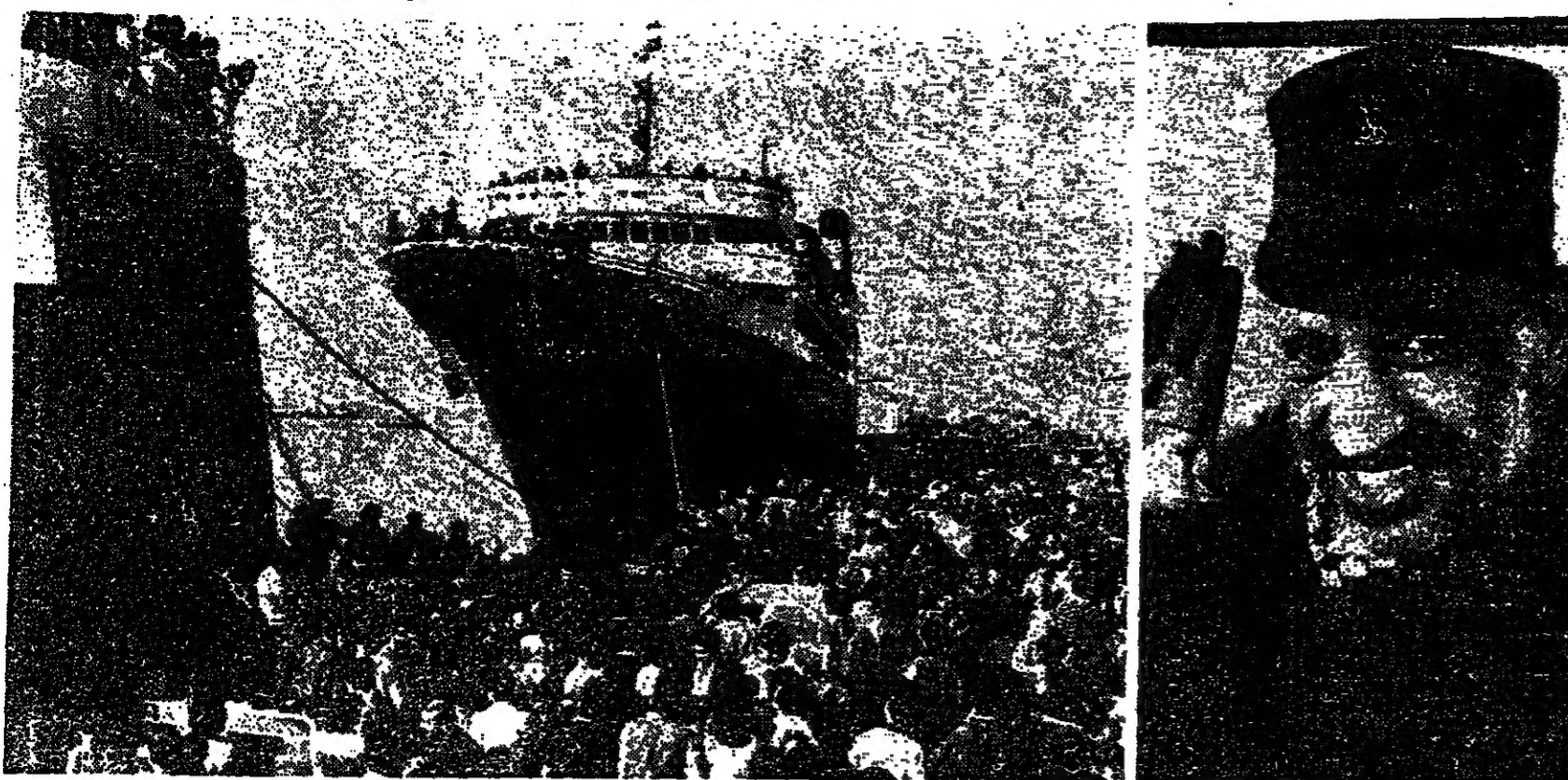


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## A homeless people in retreat, a leader with nowhere to lead them



Odyssey to nowhere: Yasser Arafat, defiantly cheerful as he and his ragged army quit the scene of their last defeat.

## Arafat sails away with mythical victory

From Robert Fisk, Tripoli, northern Lebanon

They were the same victory signs, the same bursts of gunfire, in many cases the same faces. We had seen them all before and they were again yesterday in another expensive production of the same old epic.

After humiliating defeat, Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, led his mythical victory, persuading his 4,000 men that they are on their way to Palestine and sailing off into the sunset on a dreamboat appropriately named *Odysseus*. They left behind them, as before, another Lebanese city that they had helped to destroy.

They took everything with them, their Mercedes limousines, their broken lorries, torn blankets, old tyres and rubbish tins, like children unwilling to part with old toys they left anything for the Syrians and the Palestinians who had

betrayed them. It was both pathetic and demeaning, an image of a homeless people in retreat and a leader with nowhere to lead them. The Lebanese policeman on the quayside put it rather succinctly. "Finito" was what he said.

The ritual of defeat has become almost as familiar as the story of Palestine which always seems to involve people arriving from exile or going into exile on boats. One noticed how old they had become, Arafat's loyal 4,000, how some of them walked the docks with the aid of sticks, not because they had been wounded but because they had been fighting for too long and how some of the younger men quickly forgot the reasons for their jubilation.

There was a youth on the quayside who raised his left

hand in the victory salute, balanced an anti-tank rocket launcher on his shoulder, opened his mouth to protect his ears from the air pressure and lashed off a missile across the heads of the thousands around him. Only afterwards, when he smelt his breath, did he realise that he had been drinking. Three Israeli jets circled tantalisingly overhead but Mr Arafat's warriors threw hand-grenades into the harbour for amusement, the undersea explosions banging like a hammer against the hulls of the ships that were rescuing them.

So it had come to this. Why else would the local Lebanese Sunni militiamen, unshaven, bandanas round their heads, newly acquired PLO guns in their hands, have lunged opposite the ships and sneered at the evacuees? "They were

worthless and now we are free to do what we want," one of them said, for Tripoli's agony is far from ended.

Why else, too, would one find Ian Davidson, a 26-year-old South Shields carpenter, standing in a kuffiyeh rifle in his arms, waiting to be taken to the ship after only five weeks fighting for Mr Arafat. He was not looking forward to Christmas in Yemen and hoped the PLO would let him have his passport back.

But there were other images yesterday. There were the young men tired from combat, embracing wives but still unable to stop looking back towards the mountains above Badawi, where they lost their last battle.

There were the post-graduate UN flags on the masts of the evacuation ships which the PLO men preferred not to look at. There was a girl, a very pretty girl with dark hair, who stood at one end of the quay dressed in a black suit and scarf and who just watched silently and unmoving for an hour.

And there at the finale, as always, was Mr Arafat, travelling in the *Odysseus* in a Range Rover so thick with bodyguards that you could not see him through the glass. Just once on the quay he glimpsed him, kissing a young man on both cheeks, grinning and giving a double-handed victory sign before his bodyguards ordered him from the sight of potential assassins who might just have been among the hundreds of cheering Palestinians below.

## Pretoria-Maputo deal may leave ANC isolated

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A South African delegation, led by Mr P. Botha, the Foreign Minister, yesterday held talks with senior Mozambique ministers in Swaziland.

The Mozambique news agency quoted a President Machel as saying that the talks were essential in finding a *modus vivendi* in southern Africa.

The South African delegation included General Magnus Malan, the Defence Minister, and Mr Louis le Grange, the Minister of Law and Order. The Mozambique side was led by Mr Jacinto Veloso, the Minister of Economic Affairs.

"The main objective is that no country attacks another. Neighbours are not chosen. They may bother us, or we may bother them," President Machel said. He was speaking at a conference in Guinea-Bissau of former Portuguese colonies in Africa.

Mozambique, which subscribes to a broadly Marxist ideology, has been the target of two armed attacks this year by South Africa, which claimed they were aimed at buildings occupied by African National Congress (ANC) guerrillas.

A possible outcome could be an agreement, with Mozambi-

que cracking down on ANC use of the country as a sanctuary in return for a cessation of South African military aid to insurgents opposed to the Maputo Government. South Africans deny publicly that they give such aid, but this is discounted by observers.

Lesotho has promised to supply Pretoria with more information about a plot allegedly being hatched in South Africa for the overthrow of the tiny kingdom's government by a group of mercenaries operating under instructions from an unnamed foreign power.

Lesotho revealed the coup plan on Monday night. Diplomats in Maseru, the capital, were called for a briefing by Mr Evaristus Sekhonyana, the Foreign Minister, and a message was also sent to the U.N.

Pretoria denies any knowledge of the plot, but says it would be ready to cooperate in an investigation "as a matter of urgency" once it had been given "comprehensive details".

● **PRETORIA:** Three white South African soldiers were killed during clashes with the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) the army chief of staff said here (AFP reports).

## Swiss angry at action of Italian agents

Rome (Reuters) - Switzerland has protested officially to Italy against what it terms repeated violation of Swiss sovereignty by Italian secret agents, Italian foreign ministry officials said yesterday.

They confirmed local press reports which said a diplomatic Note, presented to the Italian ambassador in Bern on Monday, warned Italy that if the violations continued relations between the two countries could suffer.

Switzerland also demanded an explanation for a statement by an Italian official last August about Italian secret service operations outside a jail, where Licio Gelli, grandmaster of the illegal P-2 Masonic Lodge, was held before his escape.

## Peruvian police general shot

General Carlos Herrera, a senior officer of the Peruvian plainclothes police, was shot dead by four men in Lima yesterday (our Foreign Staff writes).

The attack on General Herrera, commander of the police training school, came hours after the police had claimed to have captured Antonio Diaz Martinez, one of the leading figures in the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrilla movement.

## Abortion doctor must pay up

Bonn - A doctor who carries out an unsuccessful abortion must pay compensation to the mother and maintenance for the child if negligence can be proved, a West German appeal court ruled yesterday.

The court, at Zweibrücken in Saarland, ordered an unidentified woman gynaecologist to pay £765 compensation to a 42-year-old woman, now a mother of five.

## Murdoch buys

Chicago (Reuters) - Field Enterprises said yesterday it has signed a final agreement to sell the *Chicago Sun-Times*, the country's seventh largest-selling daily newspaper, to Mr Rupert Murdoch, for \$90m (£64m) cash.



The new West German Ambassador to Britain, Baron Ruediger von Weizsäcker, aged 60, who takes up his post today. He served as Ambassador in Rome after representing Germany at the United Nations for seven years.

## Ciskei ruling

Bisho, Ciskei (AFP) - The Supreme Court here has ruled that the Ciskei authorities should immediately bring Father Smangaliso Mkhathshwa, Secretary-General of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' conference before the court. He was arrested seven weeks ago.

## Church demand

East Berlin (Reuters) - The East German Protestant Church has demanded the release of two women pacifists arrested last week after meeting a member of the British Campaign for Nuclear Dismantment.

## Drought appeal

Geneva (AP) - The International Red Cross, citing worsening drought conditions in Mauritania, has launched an international appeal for 17 million Swiss francs (£5.4m) in cash and kind.

## Rwanda 'choice'

Kigali (AFP) - Major-General Juvenal Habyarimana was reelected President of Rwanda with more than 99 per cent of the vote in Monday's presidential election.

## Sentences to stay

Seoul (AFP) - A Seoul Appellate Court has upheld the prison sentences imposed in August on six Chinese hijackers who forced a Chinese domestic airliner to South Korea in May.

## Eating again

Brussels (Reuters) - University students on hunger strike in Brussels since November 22 in protest against a Bill to restrict immigration have ended their fast.

## Pandora bounty

Brisbane (AFP) - A cannon and other artefacts have been recovered by divers from HMS Pandora, a British frigate wrecked in 1791 while carrying mutineers from HMS Bounty back to England for trial.

## Bethlehem attacks feared

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Less than a week before the traditional Christmas Eve celebrations in Israeli-occupied Bethlehem, the new campaign of grenade attacks against religious targets in and around Jerusalem was intensified yesterday. Two booby-trap devices exploded, injuring two people, one seriously.

As in eight similar attacks against non-Jewish targets earlier this month, the Israeli Army issued grenades used were assumed to have been planted by a new extreme right-wing Jewish terrorist group.

The blasts were claimed in a call to the Israeli Army radio by Terror Against Terror, the group which also claimed responsibility for the previous attacks, including four close to Mount Zion.

The wave of explosions has increased fears about security in Bethlehem, which has long been regarded as a prestige target for both Jewish and Arab terrorists. It is understood that especially tight security precautions will be in operation on December 24 to prevent any group seeking the publicity from an attack which would be ensured worldwide television coverage.

The first of yesterday's blasts occurred before dawn near a mosque on the outskirts and badly injured the muezzin, who

## Iraqi leader given Reagan message

Baghdad (Reuters) - Mr Donald Rumsfeld, the US Middle East envoy left Baghdad yesterday after delivering a written message from President Reagan to President Saddam Hussein, the official Iraqi news agency said. Some observers said that this might signal progress towards a resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries, severed by Iraq during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, left the United Arab Emirates for Britain yesterday at the end of a nine-nation Middle East tour.

had been on his way to call the faithful to dawn prayers. Three hours later and only 300 yards away, the second attack took place at the Greek

Orthodox monastery in Bethan, a hillside village where tradition has it that Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. A nun going to tend two goats was wounded in the foot when a grenade fitted with a hair-trigger device exploded.

Israeli police believe that the attacks - which were designed to kill - are being carried out by a small group with Israeli Army training. Their campaign is thought to have been mounted in revenge for the Jerusalem bus bomb planted by the Palestine Liberation Organization earlier this month, an attack that has claimed six lives so far.

The incidents have caused consternation in both Christian and Muslim religious circles where the lack of security for religious institutions is openly acknowledged. They coincide with a drive among some Jewish extremists against the alleged missionary activities of Christian groups in Israel and the occupied territories.

The Hebrew acronym of the group which claimed responsibility is TNA, a similar name to that used by a Jewish terrorist organization active some 10 years ago.

## Military errors blamed for Marines massacre

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

A congressional report has accused the entire US military chain of command in Beirut of "very serious errors in judgment" that led to the death of 241 American Marines in a bomb attack on October 23.

The report was highly critical of officers on the ground. General Paul Kelly, the Marine Corps commandant, was accused of providing testimony that was "inaccurate, erroneous and misleading" when he appeared before the House armed services committee in early November.

The report, produced by the House armed services investigation sub-committee, attributed part of the blame for the disaster to the administration. It complained that the Marines had been hampered in several ways by "political-diplomatic" considerations and said that President Reagan should reexamine the Marine mission in Lebanon or have congress do it for him.

The implicit message behind the report is that the investigators are highly sceptical of the role of American Marines in

Beirut. Shortly before the massacre, congress authorized the President to keep troops there for another 18 months. However, vigorous attempts are likely to be made to reverse the decision.

An official Pentagon investigation into the disaster is due to be published soon. The explosion, which happened when a lorry laden with bombs was rammed through the Marine defences and up to the headquarters building, has resulted in a review of safety measures.

The report said: "The truck bomb... rolled through a corrugated wire fence that was primarily a personnel barrier. It went between guard posts where the guards had their guns unloaded... it went through a gate that was generally left open... iron pipes in front of the building were not large enough to stop the vehicle..."

It called to account "the higher policy-making authority that adopted and continued a policy that placed military units in a deployment where protection was inevitably inadequate".

## Briefing for Thatcher on Kissinger mission

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Dr Henry Kissinger will discuss his forthcoming report on Central America with Mrs Margaret Thatcher at Downing Street today.

The former US Secretary of State has just returned from Venezuela where he assured President Luis Herrera Campins and President-elect Jaime Lusinchi that his commission was seeking the demilitarization of Central America, economic development and the creation of pluralist democracies.

He said these would be the objectives set out in the report, to be completed in February. He wanted to see the countries of Central America live in peace, free from foreign interference.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, will also be at Downing Street. Dr Kissinger discussed the report at the Foreign Office yesterday with Lady Young, Minister of State with responsibility for North and South America.

The meetings have been arranged at his request during a private visit to London, according to Whitehall sources. The US Embassy said it was unaware of Dr Kissinger's programme.

● **PANAMA CITY:** Some Central American countries may be having second thoughts about the Contadora group's 21-point peace plan for the region, according to diplomatic sources (Reuters reports).

The Foreign Ministers of the

four countries which make up the group in Mexico, Colombia, Panama and Venezuela, gathered here yesterday to discuss how their proposals could be put into practice.

The Contadora countries originally intended Central American representatives to attend the talks, but the meeting including them was postponed.

"Some countries may feel reluctant to commit themselves at this stage", one senior foreign diplomat said.

Key provisions of the plan, approved by Central American countries in Panama in September, include withdrawal of foreign military advisers and an end to support for rebel groups in the region.

● **MANAGUA:** Nicaragua said that about 2,000 US backed rebels had launched a new offensive, penetrating deep into the northern province of Jinotega (Reuters reports).

The right-wing rebels of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), entered the country from bases neighbouring Honduras and have fought a series of battles.

● **SAN SALVADOR:** The Salvadorean right-wing leader, Señor Roberto D'Aubuisson, has been named presidential candidate of the Arena Party (Reuters reports).

Political sources said that Señor D'Aubuisson would step down as president of the Constituent Assembly, as required by law. The election is due to take place on March 25.

## EEC faces cheese-paring if money is to last

From Ian Murray, Brussels

The European Commission is being forced into a drastic cheese-paring exercise in an attempt to find enough money to last the EEC throughout next year. This follows the adoption yesterday of the 1984 budget by Mr Piet Dankert, President of the Parliament, despite a last-minute plea by member-states.

The £15,300m budget is clearly not going to meet all the Community's obligations in 1984. And no matter what steps the Commission takes it is likely that some bills will have to remain unpaid after September.

In turning down the Council of Ministers' request to think again, Mr Dankert has served notice that the Parliament is determined to stake its claim to a larger share in community decision-making. With direct election coming in June, it could hardly do less.

It also means that the only quick and certain way in which Britain's frozen £457m rebate - which is included in the 1984 budget - can be released is for there to be rapid agreement on Community reforms.

The alternative would be for either the Council or Britain to start court proceedings against the Parliament for having adopted a budget which is legally suspect.

Mr Dankert made it quite clear yesterday that he utterly rejects the Council suggestion that it was illegal to transfer the British rebate money to a category which could be frozen.

The frozen rebate, however, is nothing but an irritating side issue to the Commission, which now has to find extra money somewhere if it is to manage the 1984 budget.

## Retirement at 59 for West Germans

From Our Correspondent, Bonn

West German workers will be able to retire at 59 under a Government plan announced yesterday, to find jobs for younger people and reduce unemployment of more than two million.

Under the voluntary scheme, workers who opt for early retirement will be paid a minimum of 65 per cent of their former gross pay. But retirement agreements will be negotiated between employers and employees, and there will be no upper limit on pensions.

Firms which replace an early retiree with an unemployed younger adult or take on a school leaver as an extra apprentice, will receive a state subsidy of 40 per cent of their contributions to their former employee's pension and health insurance.

Herr Norbert Blum, the Bonn Labour spokesman, yesterday

described the plan as a "job creation pact between the state, workers and trade unions." He added: "It is a model of cooperation in difficult times. It is also a contribution to solidarity between the generations, offering relief to older workers and a chance of employment for the younger."

The scheme, approved by the Cabinet on Monday, is expected to become law next April and will apply for five years. All workers aged between 59 and 65 will be eligible for early retirement without question, except for those in firms with 20 or fewer employees who will require their employer's agreement.

The scheme will not apply to civil servants, Herr Blum said, because they already had their own part time and "flexitime" working arrangements.

## Lambsdorff works on in Cabinet

From Our Correspondent, Bonn

Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the West German Economics Minister, who has been charged with corruption, is to remain in office until further notice, the chief government spokesman said yesterday.

Herr Peter Boenisch told a press conference that this has been agreed in a talk between Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Herr Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister and Free Democrat leader, and Count Lambsdorff.

Count Lambsdorff in a statement confirmed that "my work as Federal Minister for Economics goes on," his decision was based on his "good conscience" he added. "I will not let unfounded charges push me out of office."

## Arms found in Solidarity priest's flat

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

A secret cache of explosives, ammunition, an illegal printing press and thousands of leaflets calling for demonstrations were discovered in the apartment of a radical pro-Solidarity priest in Warsaw, the Polish authorities disclosed yesterday.

The flat was being rented by Father Jerzy Popieluszko, whose outspoken sermons attacking martial law and official abuses of human rights have earned him a following of thousands of Solidarity supporters and the suspicion of the security police.

The find is a serious upset to the Catholic Church leadership, which has until now been able to sustain an uneasy compromise between statesmanlike appeals for calm and reconciliation with the militancy of

parish priests, many of whom say that the church must more actively defend the suffering and persecuted.

Senior Church representatives managed to secure the release of Father Popieluszko last week, but investigations are continuing on the basis of at least two serious charges - possession and storage of explosives and ammunition and preparing action to disturb public order.

Father Popieluszko had been held for questioning about other charges, concerning abuse of his religious rights by injecting politics into his services, and police say they then found the keys to his apartment.

Normally Father Popieluszko lives in a small cramped room in the rectory of his church of St

Stanislaw Kostka, in the Zoliborz suburb of Warsaw. His congregation includes many workers from the Huta Warszawa steelworks who had been acting as his bodyguards.

If the authorities can produce concrete evidence that the Church has been giving material support to the underground opposition, and is even preparing for violence, they will have an important propaganda breakthrough.

Mr Jerzy Urban, the Government spokesman, confirmed yesterday that there had been trouble in the Barczewo prison, which houses Solidarity prisoners. Informed sources say that Solidarity is trying to win political prisoner status.

Leading article, page 13

## Threnody for the aged carp of Copenhagen

Copenhagen (AP) - The beloved old carp at Denmark's aquarium, senile for weeks, finally has gone the way of all fish.

"We are naturally a little sad, he was kind of a friend to us," Dr Arne Schioetz, the aquarium director said. "It was a regular ritual to let him suck our fingers."

Nobody really knows how old the grey European carp was when it died on Monday, but Dr Schioetz's educated estimate is that it was at least 45 years old.

The dead fish, or at least part of it, will remain on display in a museum at Copenhagen University.

## Ship where war ended returns to duty

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

After 29 years in mothballs the USS Missouri, the American battleship on whose decks the Japanese surrendered at the end of the Second World War, is to be returned to active duty.

The 3874 45,000-ton battleship was anchored off Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945, when the Japanese surrendered to General Douglas MacArthur, representing the allied powers, and Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz for the United States.

She is equipped with 16in guns, comparable to the largest at present possessed by US Navy vessels, capable of delivering 2,500lb projectiles 23 miles. Currently she is something of a tourist attraction among ships in the "inactive fleet" at the Puget Sound naval



Out of mothballs: The battleship Missouri in action

shipyard, Bremerton, Washington. The outside was coated with preservatives when she was taken out of commission.



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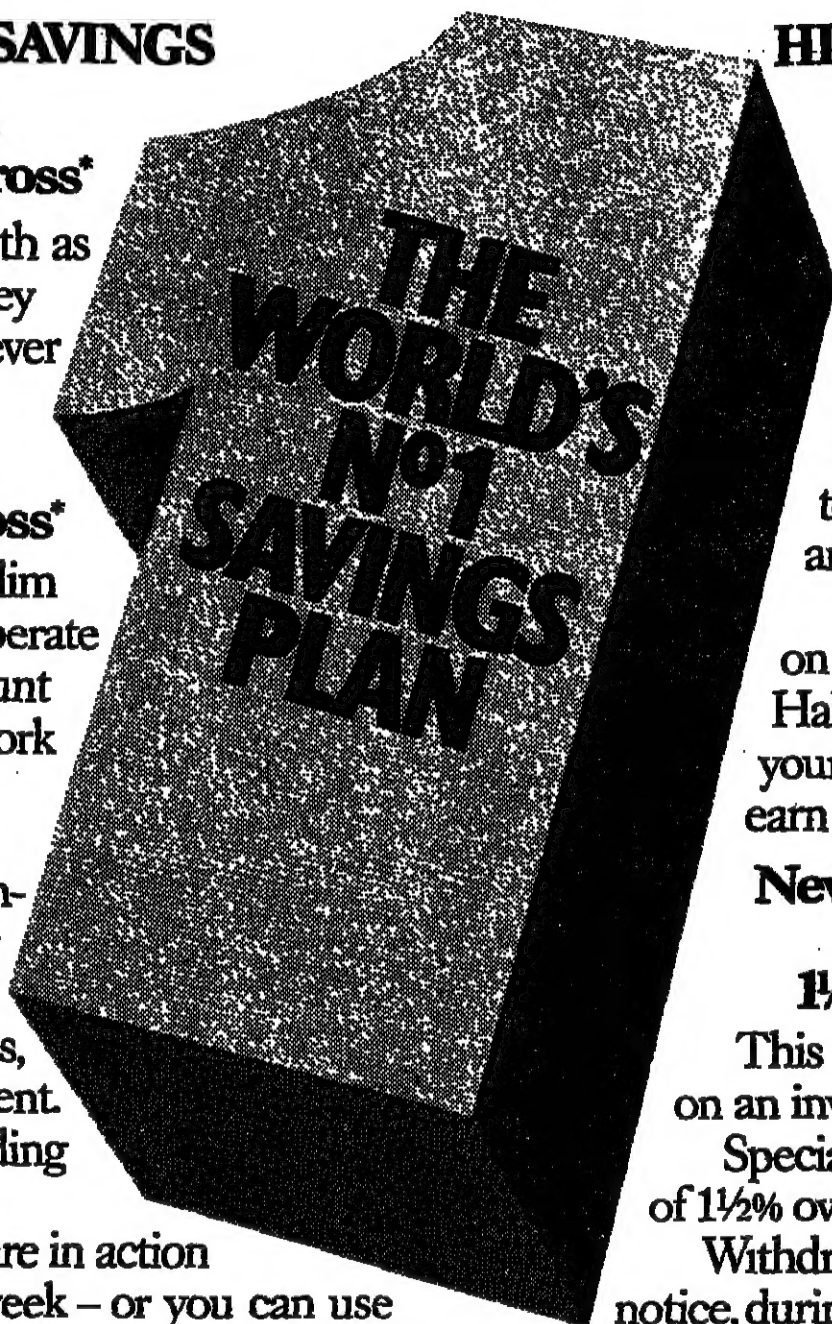
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# González flies to Paris seeking joint action against Basque terror

From Diana Geddes, Paris

President Mitterrand and Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister who is on a private visit to Paris, met yesterday against a backdrop of growing exasperation in Madrid with French attitudes to its EEC entry and to Basque refugees in France.

There has been no official visit between the two socialist leaders since Señor González came to power just over a year ago, but there has been frequent encounters at ministerial level between the two countries.

An organization called the Anti-Terrorist Liberation Group claimed responsibility yesterday for the murder in Bayonne on Monday night of an alleged Spanish Basque terrorist, Ramón Oniadara, who has lived in France since 1979.

Señor Oniadara was serving behind a bar when three of four men burst in and shot him. The group was later seen escaping in a car licensed in Navarre, Spain. There has been an increasing number of attacks and kidnap attempts against Spanish refugees in the French Basque country over the past few months, and there are strong suspicions that the Spanish police may be involved.

Four Spanish police in plain clothes were recently caught red-handed by French police in Bayonne as they tried to kidnap a suspected leading member of ETA, the Basque terrorist organization. They were im-

prisoned and charged with premeditated wounding, but were released earlier this month, allegedly for lack of evidence.

It was noted, however, that their release came only a few days after an anonymous caller had telephoned the Red Cross in San Sebastián, in the Spanish Basque country, demanding their liberation in return for the release of M Segundo Marcy, a businessman of Spanish origin, living in the French Basque border town of Hendaye, who had been kidnapped two days earlier.

Responsibility for the kidnapping of M Marcy, who was freed last week, was claimed by the hitherto unknown Anti-Terrorist Liberation Group.

In its latest telephoned message to a newspaper in St Jean-de-Luz, the group said that Señor Oniadara's murder was part of "the systematic line of attack against ETA terrorists which we are going to pursue to the bitter end in France in the coming weeks. The murders recently committed in the Spanish Basque country will meet with a firm response."

"Today's execution is only the beginning. We will demonstrate in the same way against any French people who hide, collaborate with or give work to terrorists... You will hear from us again soon."

Spain feels that, despite initial promises of closer coop-

eration, after Señor González came to power, France has done little to help tackle the Basque terrorist problem, which has caused 15 deaths in about 60 attacks in the last three months alone. It claims that the French Basque country has become a sanctuary for ETA militants.

The other big bone of contention is France's apparent dragging of its feet over Spain's application to join the EEC. French farmers, particularly in the fruit and wine-growing area of the south-west, are vehemently opposed to Spain or Portugal's entry, fearing that their markets will be swamped by the unrestricted import of cheaper products.

Earlier this month, however, Señor González described as "very positive" President Mitterrand's latest comments on the enlargement of the community, in which he called on the Ten to at least set a date for a decision.

● **MADRID:** The Basque autonomous Government yesterday, condemned what it called "dirty war methods" of fighting terrorism after the Bayonne killing (Richard Wines writes).

Protests were held in towns on the Spanish side of the frontier, with main road traffic blocked at Renteria, where demonstrators carried banners reading: "You are the terrorists - González, Mitterrand."



No sale: Mr Regan, the US Treasury Secretary (right) and Mr Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, showing the press computers recovered in Europe en route to Russia.

## Seized Russian-bound computers on show

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The Reagan Administration has its concern about illegal Soviet acquisition of Western military technology by displaying pieces of an advanced computer system seized just before it was to be smuggled into Soviet Union.

The Administration has been arguing Congress to tighten federal controls over the export of high technology to the Soviet

Union and other governments it considers unfriendly.

It is also drawing with its NATO allies and Japan a stricter list of strategic goods that must be exported to the Warsaw pact countries.

Mr Donald Regan, the treasury Secretary, and Mr Casper Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, held a joint press conference to show their concern this week. They used a

room crowded with large pieces of sophisticated equipment they said represented about half of the shipment recently stopped by the West Germans in Hamburg.

Mr Regan said the interception of the equipment on November 9 foiled what could have been a Soviet coup. If the powerful system, known as the Vax 782, and worth \$1.5 (£1m) had reached the Soviet Union it

would have increased the accuracy of Soviet weapons.

Another shipment of highly sophisticated American-made computer, also believed to be bound for the Soviet Union, was seized in late November at the Swedish southern port of Helsingborg. US and Swedish officials are now negotiating for the return of the consignment which is believed to be part of the same computer system

## The Fat One has £239m for Spain's gamblers

From Harry Debellus, Madrid

Father Christmas looks like Scrooge alongside Spain's most beloved Yuletide character, El Gordo. (The Fat One).

That is what Spaniards call their annual Christmas draw, still the world's biggest lottery despite the slipping value of the peseta. The total prize money this year, 53.1 billion pesetas (£239m), is probably greater than the entire annual state budget of some Third World countries.

With 46 top prizes of 250m pesetas (more than £1m) each, and hundreds of thousands of other prizes ranging from hefty to modest, El Gordo is a bet that gambling Spaniards cannot pass up. At the very least, they know that the smallest prize, amounting to a refund of the cost of the ticket, will be paid to one out of every 10.

Tomorrow morning, just as they have done for well over a century, the boys of St Ildefonso's school in Madrid, togged out in their best blue serge, will hold all Spain spellbound as

they strike up their monotonous tune to welcome The Fat One.

The boys stand on a stage flanked by two huge wire cages full of tiny wooden balls. The balls in one cage are painted with numbers, all five with numbers on the tickets. Each ball in the other cage is painted with a prize amount. As each pair is drawn, one boy sings out the lucky number and another sings the prize, to a staccato reminiscent of Gregorian chant.

Such a payoff would not be possible unless Spaniards spent a lot on El Gordo, and they do. The total this year is expected to reach 75.9 billion pesetas or about £10 for every man, woman and child.

The cost of full ticket, with potential winnings of up to 250m pesetas, is 25,000 pesetas, but few Spaniards hold a whole ticket. Most buy shares in one or more numbers. The most common share is one-tenth, known as a decimo.



Jodie Foster: Fined.

## Drugs found in actress's case

Boston (AFP) - Jodie Foster, aged 20, the American actress, was briefly detained and fined \$100 (£70) worth of cocaine was found in her luggage when she arrived at Boston airport from Paris. The drug was discovered during a routine customs inspection on Monday. Miss Foster is a student at Yale.

## Next week crucial for ailing leader

From Richard Owen, Moscow

With President Andropov still absent from public view, speculation is growing that he may break all precedents by not appearing at next week's crucial Central Committee and Supreme Soviet (Parliament) sessions.

Mr Andropov, who suffers from kidney and heart ailments, has not been seen since the middle of August, and did not attend the annual parade on Red Square on November 7. "A Soviet leader can only afford so many unprecedented absences before his political credibility is called into question", one diplomatic observer said.

The Soviet leadership is nominally collective but in practice dominated by one man, who sets the tone for the regime and largely determines policy.

As General Secretary of the party, Mr Andropov is obliged to guide the Politburo and Central Committee, from which he derives his power. As head of state he would normally preside at the Supreme Soviet sessions which follow the biannual-party meetings.

It was reported recently that Mr Andropov had returned to work on a part-time basis, though observers are divided over whether he is at his desk in the Kremlin or at a special Federal sanatorium just outside Moscow.

Informed sources said the Soviet leader spent most of his time at the sanatorium, and was convalescing after kidney surgery. He is said to have difficulty moving about. The United States magazine Newsweek reported this week that Mr

Andropov had less than two years to live, but no other source has confirmed this.

There have been persistent rumours Mr Andropov is about to make his promised reappearance.

There were reports that he would be shown awarding

medals to the cosmonauts who returned from the Salyut 7 space station last month, but in the end the awards were merely announced in the press. Soviet leaders normally attend the ceremony.

There have been other suitable occasions, including the visit to Moscow last week by the Foreign Minister of Finland, but none has been used.

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## Foreign Office censured by MPs

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

The Foreign Office was censured by the Commons Select Committee of Public Accounts yesterday for its failure to pursue economy measures in managing its £200m diplomatic estate.

The all-party committee, which has a Conservative majority, began by criticizing the Foreign Office for taking almost three years to issue new standards for residential accommodation overseas.

It was explained to the MPs that running the overseas estate was a matter of "extraordinary complexity" and that, though it was recognized diplomats should be housed as efficiently and inexpensively as possible, staff had to have "the tools for the job".

But the committee commented: "We were surprised to learn that, in promulgating the new standards, FCO did not call for specific action to reallocate or dispose of over-scale property."

"We would have expected to see much more emphasis on the need for economy, and for general adherence to the standards, and instructions to deal quickly with any property which was seriously over-scale."

The report specifically cited over-scale residences in Nairobi, Vienna and Singapore, where the Foreign Office had shown reluctance to economize.

Action has been agreed on Nairobi and Vienna, but ministers have decided that Eden House should be retained in Singapore, though the house is 69 per cent over-scale and was last year valued at £2.75m.

The MPs said that the Foreign Office gave too much emphasis to prestige or tradition. "We question the need to maintain in the 1980s a lavish style of personal accommodation which appears to have outlived its time. We therefore urge FCO to adopt a radical change in attitude, giving a new and positive emphasis to considerations of cost effectiveness."

The Foreign Office had tended to resist the agency's economy plans "for questionable reasons", and officials had shown little sign of "enthusiasm or urgency in pursuing the possibilities of greater economy and efficiency."

Fifth Report from the Committee of Public Accounts, Session 1983-84: Economy Measures in the Civil, Defence and Overseas Estates, Stationery Office, 16.

## Turkey gets a warning on missiles

Moscow (Reuters) - The Soviet Army newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda yesterday warned Turkey against strengthening its military links with the United States and said that Moscow would not accept American nuclear missiles on Turkish territory.

The newspaper said that Ankara was ignoring past agreements with Moscow which pledged both sides to avoid the use of force.

Leading Turkish politicians were now calling for an American "nuclear umbrella" over their territory and trying to condition the public to the idea of deploying weapons there, the newspaper said.

It added that this would be a breach of the treaties, and that Moscow would retaliate.

It also reminded Ankara that Moscow had forced the removal of United States Jupiter missiles deployed in Turkey in 1959 within nine months of their arrival.

Rome (AP) - A magistrate has reopened an investigation into the disappearance of Mrs Jeanette May, a Briton, and her Italian companion, Signora Gabriella Guerin, after reports they may still be alive. A weekly magazine has reported.

The magazine La Domenica del Corriere said that Signor Alessandro Jacoboni, the investigating magistrate of Camerino, had ordered remains believed to be those of Signora Guerin to be exhumed for tests of identity.

The magistrate would neither confirm nor deny the report, but court sources confirmed that the case had been reopened.

Two skeletons were discovered in January 1982 in an isolated forest in central Italy 14 months after Mrs May and her companion vanished during a blizzard. The magazine did not explain why officials think the two women may still be alive.

## May inquiry reopened

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## Madrid disco owners moved to jail

From Our Own Correspondent, Madrid

A magistrate yesterday ordered that the four co-owners and manager of the Madrid discotheque, where 80 people died in a weekend fire, be transferred to Carabanchel jail. The five have been held without charge in police custody since Saturday.

Madrid's College of Architects joined the public outcry, alleging yesterday that the majority of discotheques in the capital had been checked under the 1982 revised safety regulations.

The architects also criticized the new regulations and said they lacked precise technical specifications. Months before

the tragedy, the architects said, they told Industry Ministry inspectors that they were worried about conditions in the discotheques.

Madrid City Council officials have already admitted the 1982 regulations do not lay down anything about the frequency of safety checks.

## Law Report December 21 1983

### Buyers liable for repudiation

Berger & Co v Gill & Duffus SA

Before Lord Diplock, Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Roskill, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook and Lord Templeman [Speccs delivered December 15]

Buyers who repudiated a contract of sale by sample by wrongfully rejecting valid shipping documents on their presentation accompanied by a valid certificate of quality in respect of only part of the contract goods, could not avoid liability for the repudiation by claiming that that part of the contract goods in respect of which a certificate of quality had not been obtained, were nonconform with their description in a manner which went also to quality and without proving that the sellers could not have obtained a valid certificate of quality for those goods.

The House of Lords so held, allowing an appeal by the sellers, Berger & Co Inc from a decision of the Court of Appeal (Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Slade, Lord Justice Robert Goff dissenting) on January 27, 1983, who allowed an appeal by the buyers, Gill & Duffus SA, from a decision of Mr Justice Lloyd on July 28, 1981.

Mr Bernard Rix, QC, and Miss Elizabeth Birch for the sellers; Mr David Johnson, QC, and Mr Pergrin Simon for the buyers.

LORD DIPLOCK said that the subject matter of the appeal was a single contract dated December 22, 1976 for the sale of 500 tonnes of "Argentine Bolita Beans 1974 Crop" as per sample, cif Le Havre, on the terms of GAFTA 41 subject to certain variations, of which the most material was a provision that a certificate of quality at port of discharge given by the General Superintendence Co Ltd, Paris (GSC) should be final.

On February 3, 1977 the full 500 tonnes was shipped on the Salland from Costa Rica and arrived at Le Havre on March 21, but only 445 tonnes of the consignment were discharged. The balance was overcarried to Rotterdam and brought back to Le Havre on April 2.

Shipping documents which covered the whole contract quantity of 500 tonnes were presented at the buyer's bank as provided for in the contract clause relating to payment, on March 22, 1977. The buyers rejected the documents and refused

to pay against presentation on the ground that they did not include the GSC certificate as to quality.

A GSC certificate under the certification clause was incapable of being included among shipping documents which a seller was required to tender to his buyer in return for the payment of the price under a contract of sale in ordinary circumstances.

The sellers did not elect to treat the buyers' refusal to pay upon presentation of documents as a wrongful repudiation of the contract but instead set about obtaining a GSC certificate in relation to the 445 tonnes that had been discharged. Shipping documents were re-presented to the buyers together with that certificate on March 30, but were again rejected.

The sellers then did treat that refusal as a wrongful repudiation of the contract and sought to treat the contract as rescinded. That had the consequence in law that all primary obligations of the parties under the contract should have been terminated.

That termination did not prejudice the right of the party so electing to claim damages from the party in repudiatory breach for any loss sustained in consequence on the non-performance by the latter of his primary obligations under the contract future as well as past.

When the sellers elected to treat the contract as repudiated on April 1, they ceased to be under any contractual obligation to deliver up the contract goods. The buyers on the other hand became liable to the sellers in damages for breach of contract.

Prima facie the measure of such damages would be the difference between the contract price of 500 tonnes and the price obtainable for the documents representing the goods at date of the acceptance of the repudiation.

Words used in a contract of sale for goods which were not "specific goods" as defined in section 6 of the Sale of Goods Act 1893, often included words which described a characteristic as to quality or condition that they possessed which distinguished them from other goods of the same general kind.

The Court of Appeal was correct in its conclusion in *Toupin v Continental Grain Co* ([1974] 1 Lloyd's Rep. 111), that where the description of the goods included a statement as to their quality and

provided that a certificate as to quality was to be final, the certificate was final as to the correspondence of the goods with the description of quality in the contract notwithstanding that the certificate was proved to have been inaccurate.

The reason why it was consistent with section 13 of the 1893 Act was that while "description" itself was an ordinary English word, the Act contained no definition of what it meant when it referred to a sale "by description". One had to look to the context as a whole to identify the kind of goods that the seller was agreeing to sell and the buyer to buy.

Where the sale was "by sample as well as by description" character-istics of the goods which would be apparent on reasonable examination of the sample were unlikely to have been intended by the parties to form part of the "description" by which the goods were sold, even though such characteristics were mentioned in references in the contract to the goods that were its subject matter.

When a buyer under a cif contract accepted shipping documents which transferred the property in the goods to him, the property in the goods he obtained were subject to the condition subsequent that it would revert to the seller if upon examination the



# THE ARTS

## Dance in France Russian rock lures the Parisians

If French ballet dancers can put on an evening of American modern dance, one ought not to be surprised at a troupe of Russian actors arriving in Paris with a rock opera. Versatility is the name of the game. I was able to catch both shows within 24 hours, with an early-evening programme by a visiting American company thrown in for good measure.

I am told that a tele-recording of the Russian production looked dull on Channel 4; if so, it cannot have done justice to the effect on stage at L'Espace Pierre Cardin. Acting and dancing on steep translucent ramps, with a marvellously simple décor of a ship's prow, a few planks and ropes, imaginatively lit, the Komsovol troupe from Moscow conjure up a real-life adventure of 1806 when Count Rezanov sailed to California and tried to establish a trade and political link between Russia and the then Spanish possession.

Rezanov's ship was the Avos - a Russian word meaning a hope that could come true; but it did not. He met, loved and seduced the daughter of the governor of San Francisco, returned home for permission to marry her, and died. She waited for him 35 years, then entered a convent. Their night of love is shown in what is virtually a *pas de deux* arranged by the Bolshoi star Vladimir Vassiliev, who also staged a trained dancers.

The score of *Avos*, by Alexis Ribnikov, ranges from ancient church music through haunting ballads for the ship's officers to the first-rate rock by a Moscow group called Rock Aielor. Nicolai Karachentsev, as Rezanov, needs the microphone to cope with his limited amount of singing, but justifies his casting by the power and nuance of his acting: everyone else can put over the numbers as effectively as the lines - which, incidentally, are mostly spoken just like an operatic ensemble, everyone facing front but coming in with perfect timing.

The book is by Andrei Woznessenski, based on his long poem of the same title, and the production is directed by Marc Zakharov. Although

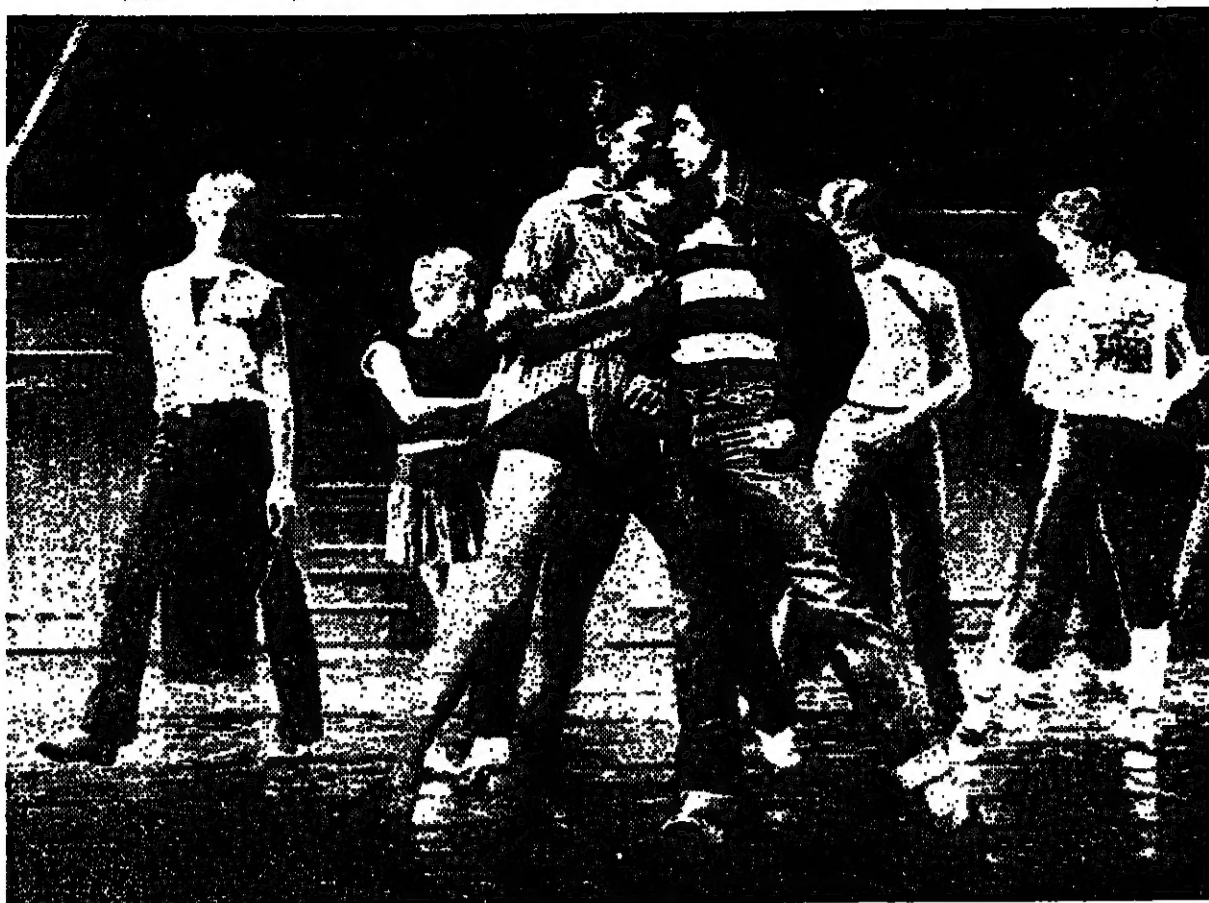
I know scarcely a dozen words of Russian, I was held and thrilled throughout. Which is more than I can say of the programme of contemporary works by the Ballet de l'Opéra at the Opéra-Comique.

We all know what happens to best-laid plans, and Nureyev's intention of a triple bill by Merce Cunningham, Paul Taylor and William Forsythe was knocked aside first when Taylor's other commitments necessitated postponing his *Rite of Spring* until next June, then when Forsythe developed food poisoning and his premiere had to be put back a fortnight. All the same, Nureyev managed to put on a complete programme of modern American choreography, and only one real dud among them.

That one is *Marée de morte eau*, a pretentiously silly work by Tim Wengert, formerly a dancer with Martha Graham. Having assembled a cast led by one of the most expressive French ballerinas, Wilfride Prollet, and four of the most gifted younger dancers, he has not much more to offer them than poses, groupings and walking around in costumes that suggested an alternative title: "I dreamed I was on stage in my Maidenform bra". Maybe they should have gone for sponsorship.

Infinitely more worthwhile, and for me the evening's highlight, was Karole Armitage's *Massacre sur MacDougal Street*, to Rhys Chatham's heavy rock score. I wrote about it a few months ago when the Opéra Ballet's experimental group gave it at Théâtre de la Ville; it proved equally effective transferred from the open stage there to the more conventional one at the Opéra-Comique.

Dancers of the experimental group also undertook the Cunningham premiere, *Intel II*, a revised version of a work the choreographer's own company gave at Sadler's Wells on one of their London visits. John Cage's score, with sounds of water slopping or tinkling around, caused quite a few intermission jokes about



Effective transfer: *Massacre sur MacDougal Street*

the need to "laire pipi", but the dancers tackled the complex assignment, with its many demanding, balances and slowly evolving movements, conscientiously, although unfortunately without quite the understanding of weight and emphasis that could convert it from an exercise to a lively experience.

Nobody could accuse Louis Falco's *Black and Blue* of lacking liveliness. Set to songs by Harry Nilsson and Randy Newman, it is a choreographic joke about boxing. Jean Guizenz brings a wary but massive power to the old champion, Bull Washington; Charles Jude is his hopeful young rival. Kid Lefty; and there are five others engaged in minor bouts - three of them played by a group of young women as delightful as they are talented: Florence Clerc, Marie-Claude Pietragalla and Marie-Josée Redont.

Two of the younger male soloists, Frédéric Olivieri and Wilfrid Romoli,

also have a round that suggests they have the quality to become champions themselves, and (for no very good reason except a casual line in one of the songs) there is a chorus line of spacemen, who are fine when they simply progress across the back, dimly seen through gauze, but Falco runs out of ideas for them when they actually invade the stage towards the end.

To be honest, Falco gets a bit short of ideas generally through trying to go 10 rounds, and like many of his works it ends inconclusively, but it is fun most of the time and the dancers (direct from the opulent *Raymond* up the Boulevard des Italiens) let their hair down engagingly.

The spirit they bring to Falco's choreography causes me to wonder what they might make of Lucinda Childs's. She and her company, at the Théâtre de la Ville, gave three works in a 75-minute programme without intermission. What energy!

The oldest work of the evening, *Dance I* from 1979, shows her style at its purest: based, like the Philip Glass score, on repetition with tiny variations, it has tremendous pace and constantly changing detail that demands, and rewards, close attention as the eight dancers whizz back and forwards across the stage in pairs.

Two later pieces show the same principles being pulled sideways into more elaborate floor patterns and greater variety of pace. The earlier work has a bigger impact but Childs has obviously found a way forward that does not distort the original concept. The way she commands both form and individuality ought to be an inspiration to modern British choreographers, too many of whom seem to flounder about without either. It is frustrating that, when she brings her company to Paris, nobody can add a side trip to London.

John Percival

## Television

### Gripping snapshot

With 1984 so close, the literary CID, always alert for a sign of about over time, is already conspicuously reinvestigating George Orwell. His case is unlikely to be closed. Exposition is indeed so abundant that generations who have not read him might conclude that there is no necessity to do so.

Should that be the case, last night's BBC1 drama-documentary, *Orwell on Jura* - the Crystal Spirit, may have caused them to think again, spurring them to appraise for themselves this odd, lonely chap with the obsession with truth, the admirable scepticism and the deep suspicion of power. BBC Scotland struck tellingly here while other firms are still heating. It will be interesting to see if anything - and there will be much more - comes up from the excellent snapshot they presented.

What they did was to focus on the man, to re-enact the writing of *Nineteen Eighty Four* while Orwell was painfully descending his last slope, accelerating that descent with his own grim determination to have it to his own, grudgingly yielding satisfaction. It was beautifully shot on the island where he wrote it, in the house where he did so. Alan Plater had the assistance of Orwell's

biographer, Professor Bernard Crick, and various people who remembered Orwell's last stand in Jura, for his script.

He made a brilliant job of it, the dialogue spare, mordant, intuitive and sadly humorous. Ronald Pickup was Orwell, established in the part before he had spoken a word by a back shot showing the long, lean, overcast figure with the unmistakable hair-cut. Nothing he did subsequently took away from the conviction that this was Orwell.

The supporting cast was equal to his virtuoso performance. Fiona Walker as his sister Avril and David Swift as his artist friend were particularly good. Plater's script enabled them to present a picture of solid relationships based on affection but tempered by the realization that the object of it was an ornery cove.

"I read all your damn books", Avril tells him when he returns from hospital; the brief sister-brother dialogue, with irony masking sentiment, on their relative literary merit was one of many memorable moments. The cast, the production, the direction, the director John Glenister and Mr Plater can go into 1984 with well-patted backs.

Dennis Hackett

## Theatre

### Aladdin Shaftesbury

As you would expect from a line-up including Tommy Trinder, Roy Kinnear, Lynsey de Paul, and Derek Griffiths, story-telling is not a priority in the Shaftesbury pantomime. Living up to its name, the Theatre of Comedy company is out mainly to raise a laugh by doing its own thing.

Gales of mirth and non-stop audience contact are the target, and Tudor Davies's production is arranged as a series of spot routines for everyone in sight. Mr Kinnear appears with David Jackson as a helmet-bashing Peking cop. A mystified Mr Trinder periodically wanders on with the one line "They seek him here...". Everything stops reverentially when Miss de Paul sings; it is fair to add that she has a nice line in *Knightsbridge chinolserie*. And Mr Griffiths tops the bill as a King Rat Abanazer, orchestrating his own boos and disdainfully mingling among the customers to tell them that he has poisoned their ice cream and deflated their tyres.

But, if anything sums up the show, it is Mr Davies's Dame, a poulticed rosebud-lipped haridan with a honking cleavage, very quick on his feet and no less nippy in ripping off the hoariest patter in the Christmas vault. "I must take down your particulars." "One is without."

You name it, and it crops up somewhere in the uncredited book.

Meanwhile, we have to roar a greeting to every entrance of Jill Gascoine's cheeky cockney Aladdin, and Richard O'Sullivan's Wishee Washer; warn the cast of lurking gorillas, and hurl insults at each other. As there is also a black theatre number to get through, plus tinselled excursions into revved-up Borodin, there is not much time to spare for any silly old story about a magic lamp.

This is a pity, as the book contains two promising new twists. Abanazer first casts a spell to save Aladdin from an imperial beheading; and subsequently transforms Wishee Washer into the Slave of the Lamp. Either of these ideas could have been interestingly followed up. But, come the cave scene, and Aladdin has forgotten any reason for being grateful to his benefactor. And although Mr O'Sullivan appears to well-morried advantage in a gold-matted track suit with a nodding cobra headpiece, his transformation has no influence on events. I have never seen the final rescue scene pass off with so little attempt at suspense.

The show played against a hideous set of cutouts depicting the Peking supermarket or the Twankey laundry in spidery line drawings (by Alan Miller Bunford) and generally lit by James Baird in bilious yellow.

Irving Wardle

### Gulliver's Travels Gate at Latchmere

For all its fully-shirted mariners clinging to the main mast, or choreographed Houyhnhnms in body stockings, Lou Stein's adaptation of Swift is not much more than a director's exercise. It adds little (and is not really convincing) to stage Lilliput or Brobdingnag by having actors look upwards or downwards at imaginary and unstageable figures; the Lilliputians' experiments gain little by showing a plastic tube shoved up a toy dog's behind, and the little bits of dramaturgy necessary to cover awkward joints in the plot sound as though they were written on the back of an envelope.

Of course, Swift's satire and his fierce indignation (his own famous words) at mankind's follies and cruelties become contemporary afresh in every decade. In London now, who needs a commentator for Gulliver's commendation of gunpowder as a civilized device for blowing people up, for the horse kingdom's sexual equality in education or indeed for Laputa's planning blight through the unfinished schemes of "projection"?

But all this is in the book, available to read and full of a

special character, harshly vindictive and whimsical by turns, that owes nothing to a director's prop basket or performers like Joanna Myers, regarding the courtiers in these curious kingdoms only as a heavenly chance for mugging and grimacing.

As the Gullivers themselves (there are two), the elegantly grizzled and bespectacled John Castle, dilly interpreting a multiplicity of nonsense languages from a corner of the stage, sees his younger self find himself successfully a giant, a midget, a dumbo among intellectual nutters and a human inferior graciously received by horses.

The Frank and curly Michael Fenton-Stevens dances like a circus freak for the Brobdingnagians and lends the Lilliputians a massive ear, but cannot make his Rediff home base any more real than it is in the book.

Seeing Lilliput represented by a cushion sewn with green bobbles and indulgently surveyed by the young Gulliver, I wished that the theatre would allow a few fictional works to live untouched. Not much hope in view of the Balzac, Defoe, Charlotte Brontë, Laurie Lee and Dostoyevsky adaptations in recent months. Who is next?

Anthony Masters

## Concert Accent on Schubert

Nash Ensemble  
St John's/Radio 3

Christmas relaxation in what is proving a distinguished series of BBC lunchtime concerts was provided by the Nash Ensemble in Schubert's *Octet*, as unsuspicious a piece of divertimento-type music as has ever been written. Now that Schubert's Septet is justifiably rarely played, we are less aware of the strong tradition of early nineteenth century "broken consort" pieces to which many composers, notably Hummel, contributed many works.

It would have been a callous heart that was not touched again by the generous warmth and lilting rhythms of the Nash's performance, especially in its ebullient but always lyrical finale, with smiling, trilling sequences. There were some outstanding contributions from the clarinet of Michael Collins in particular, and which bassoon and horn took up the agile theme of the first movement showed a sense of fine interplay and responsiveness in the group.

One small aspect worried me. In an interesting essay published a year ago, Arnold Feil showed how meticulous was Schubert's use of accents in the Scherzo of this work: he does not mark thumps on every barline, as the Nash thumps played it, but two thumps followed by two unaccented bars - and, as Feil pointed out, the confusion between decrescendo marks and accent marks in the notation is considerable, and was not clarified here.

Listening to the whole work, the prominence and variety of accents was very striking. Those in the snister introduction to the finale were played with a sharp, effective attack, but those in the opening Allegro too often turned into just a lunge. The instruments of the time far more naturally made a biting attack followed by a sudden decay: to try and recreate the complexity indicated by Schubert's markings might reveal more subtleties in the music.

Nicholas Kenyon

Peter Maxwell Davies's *The Lighthouse*, recently staged in Boston, is to be performed in Vienna by Studio K, a division of Wiener Kammeroper, opening on February 17. In June Studio K, which is dedicated to presenting contemporary works, will give the first stage production of *Lieder-Spiel* by the young Austrian composer Meinhard Rudenauer.

Mozart's *Bastien and Bastienne* will be given by a chamber group from Kent Opera at Strawberry Hill House on January 5 as the final event in a conference organized by the Heritage Education Trust to promote the use of historic houses for educational purposes. The performance will be repeated the following night for the Friends of Kent Opera.



Doris Soffel: a touch of panache

## Opera Linguistic limbo

Die Fledermaus  
Covent Garden

The Royal Opera's *Fledermaus* dates from New Year's Eve, 1977. The present revival for much of its very considerable length gives the strong impression that it too was cast, and probably rehearsed, at round about that date. The production creeps through Julia Trevelyan Oman's dowdy sets - her least successful foray into opera - occasionally flexing an arthritic limb and pointing it in the direction of Strauss's Vienna. But that city remains dispiritingly out of reach: this *Fledermaus* stays exactly where it should not be, in some linguistic limbo where every one uses whatever tongue is convenient.

But it is Christmas. So the credits, which mostly concern the newcomers, should be listed first. There is, thank goodness, now a mezzo Orloffsky and a very good one in the shape of Doris Soffel. Her princeling is an exotic figure, his bald pate gleaming like a billiard ball, and with a general demeanour much like that assumed by Klaus Kinski during his forays into vampire-land. And Miss Soffel, who was disappointing in Bayreuth last summer, is right in voice and leads the Act II ensembles with a panache sedately missing around her. Fledermaus O'Neill's Alfred is a sassy, roly-poly, Italianate in speech and song, quite happy anywhere provided that he can roll out an aria or a bit of one. And there is back again Josef Einrad's incomparable Frosch. He and Ingrid Baier, in the tiny part of Ida, bring the only authentic touch of Vienna.

In the pit is Plácido Domingo, conducting for the

first time at Covent Garden. He took the overture very slowly and scrupulously, favouring charm over the exuberance that sits alongside it in the score. The orchestra clearly like playing for him and Act II had a good deal of sparkle. But there is little doubt that the audience prefer Domingo on stage rather than below it: when Frosch sang the first couple of bars of "Celeste Aida" and Domingo from the pit answered with the second two there was the biggest cheer of the evening.

The singing from most of the principals remaining over from 1977 was generally dismal. Kiri Te Kanawa had an off night. She was heavily prompted throughout Act I and by the end of Act III appeared to have lost interest in the opera. Hildegard Heichele is scarcely now a soubrette in voice of figure and she delivered a charmless Adele - and where do the Adeles of this world get without charm? Hermann Prey's Eisenstein is self-indulgent and, since he is in rasping tone for much of the first act, it is strange that he was allowed to pad out an already long Act II with Sendor Barnikay's "Als flatter Geist" from *Der Zigeunerbaron*. Benjamin Luxon's Falke is an oddly pale and unvivid figure.

There is a welcome reappearance from Michael Langdon as Governor Frank. And Merle Park and Wayne Eagling treat the *Frühlingsstimmen* pas de deux as pure pastiche. When they were in full flight across the stage Adele and Ida had to get out of the way hastily; it was not clear whether that was in the script or not. Elsewhere a great deal of tidying up needs to be done before BBC 2's live relay this New Year's Eve.

John Higgins

## Simon Cadell (right) bids farewell to *Hi-de-Hi!* in the run which opens at the Victoria Palace tomorrow. Interview by Sheridan Morley

### One last fling at the old holiday camp

Even allowing for Danny La Rue in *Hello Dolly!* at the Prince of Wales, there cannot be much doubt that the campiest Christmas show of the season is to be found at the Victoria Palace where Simon Cadell leads the television cast of *Hi-de-Hi!* in their first London stage season. Bullin nostalgists addicted to this everyday story of life and times behind the scenes in a 1950s holiday camp may however be saddened to learn that the current season marks the retirement of Jeffrey Fairbrother, the bemused academic who for the last four years and 32 television episodes has been attempting to make some sort of sense of redcoat existence: though the series goes into a fifth season on BBC1 next year, Mr Cadell has decided that the time has come to return to his legitimate theatrical roots and in no uncertain way - as soon as the Victoria Palace runs ends in March, he goes to Birmingham to give his *Hamlet*.

This is not however the usual story of the clown with Shakespearean yearnings: Cadell comes from a classic-theatre family and started out in *As You Like It* long years before he ever got caught up with the camp comedies. And though the last year of his life has been solidly taken up with *Bournemouth* and BBC seasons of *Hi-de-Hi!* (with the exception of one short break during which, to declare all possible interests, he was kind enough to play in a show of mine at the King's Head) there is not much doubt that he and Fairbrother have gone as far as they can together.

"He begins to bore me, and when a character does that then you must stop playing him as soon as you can. Not that I'd have wanted to miss the chance these last four years of my life have been extremely happy, and there's no doubt that a hit comedy series on television moves you further forward in the theatre than a hit drama series. Look at what happened to Penelope Keith and Richard Briers and Paul Eddington: they all now lead the West End because of their television-comedy background. On the other hand there are dangers in staying too long with any one series: I live in dread of the night at Birmingham that I go out to do the first soliloquy and somebody calls out 'Hi-de-Hi' from the gallery. It's already happened to me once, on a tour

of *Private Lives*, and it's the kind of thing you lie awake worrying about. That and being an 'all right' sort of Hamlet. I wouldn't mind being extremely bad, and I hope to be extremely good; what I couldn't bear was the idea of being all right in the role. It's not that sort of role, is it?"

Now 33, Cadell has already been in the business for 15 years; the son of a distinguished actors' agent, and the grandson of the actress Jean Cadell, he went to the Bristol Old Vic drama school in the 1967-69 generation of John Caird and Jeremy Irons and Tim Pigott-Smith.

"At first I was desperately shy of telling my father I wanted to go into the business, and when I did he told me I'd spend most of my life without work or money. But the only other possibility was Law, and I so hated the classics master at school that I never got as far as O-level Latin, so that ruled that out. But I did get to Bristol, and from there straight into the Rep as an assistant stage manager, which meant that in all I've only ever had four months out of work. I suppose it has been a rather charmed existence, though not in any way because my father is an agent. Indeed I've never used that connection: I decided that if he started telling people I was the greatest thing since sliced bread management would know he was lying, whereas if another agent started telling them that they might only think he was lying. But people always said I'd have to wait until 40 before I had any kind of success: I somehow never looked like a juvenile auditions."

Unusually for an actor of his generation and temperament, Cadell has lived almost entirely in the West End and regional theatre; his film career has thus far been limited to one non-appearance in a Peter Sellers comedy (his scene ended up on a cutting-room floor) and by the time the major companies did start showing some interest he was already deeply into *Hi-de-Hi!*

"But I've done some long West End runs, first with Ralph Richardson and Peggy Ashcroft in *Lloyd George Knew My Father* and then with John Clements in a Haymarket court drama, and I've been very lucky in working with that generation of players. I also have a brother

and sister in the business: Patrick, who is David Lean's first assistant on the filming of *Passage to India*, and Selina, who has recently been at the Court in *Top Girls*, so it does seem still to be a family affair."

Cadell was also involved for a while with the Actors Company, living through some turbulent backstage times: "I joined late, three years into the company's existence, and I made a lot of enemies there by a complex manoeuvre whereby a minority of us managed to ensure that Edward Peifer-bridge got control of the next season. He was clearly the right man for that job, but a lot of people in the company didn't agree and some of them still don't speak to me much even five years later. But that apart, the Actors Company was a remarkable experience: with an Arts Council grant of barely £50,000 we managed to tour two full-length plays (an Ayckbourn and a Shaw) plus two Pinter one-acts all around England and South America plus a London season for which there was no funding at all. Part of the deal was that everything had to fit into half-a-dozen crates, except the actors who were allowed to travel separately."

"But I've always had a lot of time for the commercial theatre, which sadly most of my generation of actors seem now to look down on: there's no reason, critically or artistically, why Shaftesbury Avenue has to be a poor relation of the subsidized or regional companies. But, because twenty years ago commercial management panicked at the escalating costs and began doing one-set six-character shows, people realized they could get that by staying at home with the television. Which is what they did. Now we have to get them back by spending some money on creating shows they can't get at home; and I don't just mean big old musicals."

"The first show I ever saw in the West End was the Peter Brook *Tempest*, with John Gielgud, and where was that? Drury Lane. It doesn't have to be only for musicals. Look at the commercial-theatre success of *Amadeus* after it left the National. People will pay for an experience that television can't provide." And, judging by the advance booking at the Victoria Palace for *Hi-de-Hi!* also for one that television can provide.

**THE JEWEL IN THE CROWN**

"This is the story of a rape, of the events that led up to it and followed it...the affair ended with two nations locked in an imperial embrace of such long standing and subtlety it was no longer possible for them to know whether they hated or loved one another."

Paul Scott

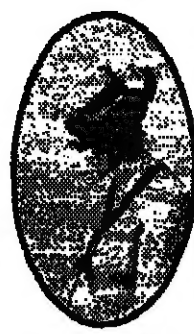
**Monday 9 January 1984**

**GRANADA TELEVISION**



## SPECTRUM

## Sweet silver song of the Lark



A sweet and gentle rural memoir is on the verge of becoming a moneyspinning

exercise in merchandising.

Shirley Lowe charts the

making of *Lark Rise to*

*Candleford* into a

bandwagon for everything

from dolls and cosmetics

to bedspreads

"Oh, Laura! What a dunce you are," Miss Holmes, the village schoolmistress used to say to nine-year-old Flora Thompson when she couldn't do her sums. Miss Holmes was wrong. Flora, during the last years of her life, wrote three semi-autobiographical books about her Victorian childhood in rural Oxfordshire which, published in one volume, became *Lark Rise to Candleford*, the source and inspiration of a continuously expanding industry in nostalgia.

The hardback version of the book was published in 1939 and has been in print ever since. It went into paperback and sold 373,000 copies. Keith Dewhurst turned it into two plays for the National, it has been produced as a record, bought up for a film and planned as a television series. This month the lavishly illustrated, abridged version of Flora Thompson's classic, bound beguilingly in country-kierchief red and white cloth, notched up sales of 200,000 copies, making it a serious contender for the coveted *Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady* Christmas success spot.

Next year, *Lark Rise* rolls on to become a major merchandising project worth millions of pounds to stores and to the manufacturers of sheets and stationery and anything else that can be commercially glossed with the homespun charm and simple virtues of Mrs Thompson's lost world.

Flora Thompson was born in 1876 and lived with her parents and nine brothers and sisters (six of whom died in childhood) in the crowded end cottage of a hamlet called Juniper Hill in Oxfordshire - "A huddle of grey stone boxes with thatched or slated lids of the kind then thought good enough to house a farm labourer's family." In her books Juniper Hill is renamed Lark Rise, Flora calls herself Laura and Fringford, the nearby village where 14-year-old Laura is apprenticed to the postmistress, is known as Candleford Green. The area is now bounded by American Air Force bases and unpicturesque A roads.

Flora married John Thompson, a young post office clerk, when she was 24; because he despised her reading and writing as a waste of time, she wrote secret, sugared love stories and nature notes and poetry for women's magazines to pay for her children's upbringing. It was not until she was 61 that she began her masterpiece, a child's minutely observed view of the life of the poor in a remote Oxfordshire hamlet during the 1880s and 1890s, when the English countryside was on the brink of inevitable change.



The rise and rise of *Lark Rise*. Top, designer Nicholas Thirkell, who has ways of making you read. Above left, the marketing team and, right, the book itself. Photographs by Suresh Karadia.

"She recorded a world of simple pleasures and pastimes: the children playing dancing games and peg-tops, the men working long hours in the fields for 10 shillings a week, and enjoying a sing-song in the pub in the evenings, the women scrubbing, cleaning, cooking, caring for animals and children and managing to make a meal out of a scrap of lard seasoned with sweet rosemary. They knew the now-lost secret of being happy on little," recalled Mrs Thompson, before her death in 1947.

The *Morning Star*, reviewing the National Theatre's highly successful "promenade" version of *Lark Rise* at the Cottesloe - the audience had to step smartly back as the villagers swept towards them with scythes - saw it differently, as "the harsh reality of rural poverty and the close, supportive but sometimes claustrophobic atmosphere of village life."

Either way, Flora is in tune with our current collective nostalgia for rural simplicity, the romantic evocation in memoirs and reprints and television serials and supermarkets of a bygone era when Mrs Bridges knew her place, every bedroom was jammed in Laura Ashley cotton, and jam pots were topped with red and white checked cambric. Her philosophy, embodying such back-stiffening maxims as "Pay your way and fear nobody" and "If a job's worth doing, it's worth doing well", is the very stuff of those Victorian values so admired by Mrs Thatcher.

Ever since Rowena Stott came upon her great-aunt Edith's diary and

Michael Joseph published it in a faithful facsimile as *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady*, the publishing world has been searching for an equally satisfactory money-maker. It was published in 1977, has sold more than 2½ million copies in hardback, been translated into 13 different languages and appeared on the best-seller list in every country it has been printed, the most bought and least read book of our time. Just over a year ago, fashion consultant Nigel French, and his assistant, Pauline Deppé, bought the merchandising rights of *Country Diary* and, after just one full year of licensing and trading, Edith Holden's poppies and cornflowers are ablaze on more than three hundred items, from 32p postcards to £3,000 kitchens - even the Japanese have made her English country-garden flowers look wanly oriental on a tea service - and the 30 licensees have achieved £28m in retail sales.

Since a merchandising company normally takes between 5 and 10 per cent of the profit of everything sold and as the publisher and the author's estate (or whoever holds the rights to the book) stand to get around 50 per cent of that, you can see why publishing houses have been urging their editors to clear the attics and seek out granny's old flower paintings. Over at Century, a new house started 18 months ago by Anthony Cheetham and a small breakaway group from Macdonalds, they have been on the treasure hunt, too, and come up with six plastic bags full of a meticulously detailed diary of a Victorian journey up the

Nile as well as some fine granny paintings from a grand house in Gloucestershire. Nevertheless, Anthony Cheetham thought it might be cleverer to approach the problem from the opposite direction: to get the best text possible and then illustrate it. And *Lark Rise* is, as he says, one of the best books ever written about childhood.

He passed the project over to Julian Shuckburgh of Shuckburgh Reynolds, one of the small packaging houses which specialize in producing the sort of lavishly-illustrated books publishers can no longer cope with themselves, without a large, skilled staff. Shuckburgh, brought up in Oxfordshire and bred on Flora Thompson, jumped at the idea: "I saw at once how we could do it." He cut the 200,000 or so words in the book back to 90,000, leaving most of Flora's childhood intact - "It scared me to death to do it" - and called in designer Nicholas Thirkell who, in turn, brought in picture researcher Jenny de Gex. She hunted out old photographs, a superb collection of Victorian paintings (15,000 portfolios at £9.95 each, containing a set of these paintings used as illustrations in the book, have already sold out) and, toughest of all, managed to gather flowers in mid-winter for the pressed flowers that decorate each page of the book.

While it's easy enough to see how Edith Holden's flora can be printed on sheets and cups and such, *Lark Rise to Candleford* is a book of words rather than a diary of pictures, so how do you cash in on the description of the lives of simple people before their traditions

were swept away by the machine age? How do you commercialize an era?

The answer is in the presentation. "My brief was a difficult but exciting one," says Nicholas Thirkell. "It was 'create another *Country Diary* best-seller'. Usually a publisher says: 'Oh, we can only afford two-colour and we'll be doing a small run to start with...' but here I was invited to go for broke."

He chose the tactile appeal of old-fashioned cloth for the cover, made the inside look a little like a cottage's scrapbook and, trying to think of an idea that symbolized the countryside and had a good graphic look for the bookshops, came up with the countryman's red and white polka-dot scarf. "I put the whole thing together in about six weeks and it was an absolute labour of love."

The finished book is a visual treat and, looking at it, one might almost say, as indeed the *Lark Rise* Merchandise Company brochure does: "What could be more natural than that this masterpiece should form the centre-piece of an extensive range of quality products?"

Debenhams will launch *Lark Rise* in July, giving them a two-month lead on other retailers. Manufacturers are queuing up for the privilege of recreating furniture in harmony with the stone and thatch of Mrs Thompson's humble cottage, of making wholesome smocks in simple calico and drill, of preparing herbal cosmetics in the correctly "natural" way and turning out cakes and preserves to look and taste as though the villagers of Lark Rise had been up all night baking them. Debenhams are excited by the project: in the second half of 1984 they estimate the promotion should generate between £3m and £4m of turnover.

The first *Lark Rise* products will be unveiled at the Birmingham Gifts Fair in February and plans are well advanced for the US market.

This is only the beginning of the *Lark Rise* nostalgia industry. Next year Anthony Cheetham will be bringing out a series of children's books - followed by a range of dolls - in which plucky little Laura surmounts all sorts of difficulties. "There were times when I thought, 'Oh no, we can't do that,'" he says, "but then I decided we mustn't start treating *Lark Rise* with too much reverence..."

"Although she was a poor child I hope she can be made into a lovable doll," Desmond Preston says.

The money side is complicated. Oxford University Press, Flora Thompson's original publishers, who hold the rights (Century have bought the abridged illustrated rights only), get 50p of every book sold this year and a percentage increase next. They also get a small proportion of the merchandise profits (some of which they pass on to Flora Thompson's only surviving relative, a grand-daughter in Australia) and the right to veto anything of which they disapprove, from a biscuit tin to a bedspread. The *Lark Rise* Merchandise Company, who do all the work of exploiting the book, get 50 per cent of the merchandising royalties and Oxford University Press, Century, Shuckburgh Reynolds, and Nicholas Thirkell split the rest.

The same team of Cheetham, Shuckburgh, Thirkell and de Gex are now at work on a companion volume to *The Illustrated Lark Rise to Candleford*. It is *The Illustrated Cider with Rosie*, so anyone who doesn't care to emulate the humble world of a poor Victorian hamlet should wait for a year or so when a mood may be created for living rather more prosperously, like Laurie Lee did a century later, in his picturesque Cotswolds valley.

moreover...  
Miles Kingston

## How to be an oracle

One of the hazards of the festive season is finding yourself talking to someone you don't like about something you can't understand - Uncle Harry, for instance, or electronics, or the America's Cup. What you need is a short swift argument that will either stop the conversation stone dead, divert it entirely, or convince the other side you are a genius. Or a lunatic.

Here are a few handy notions to cut out and memorize, listed by subject.

**The Greenham Common Peace Women**  
"Of course, Ronald Reagan thinks that all peace movements are a help to be enemy, so he has decided to discredit them. And the way he's done this is to send 2 peace-keeping forces to the Lebanon which does nothing but bomb and shell people. See what I mean? Sooner or later people will start associating the word 'peace' with destruction and murder: as advertised by US Marines, and the Greenham Common Peace Women will be discredited. Maybe they will even be shelled. Unless they've already got their own weapons. Do you think the Greenham Common Peace Women are developing their own independent deterrent?"

**The Booker Prize**  
"I heard it from a friend who knows one of the judges very well that this year, and every year for all I know, they deliberately chose the book they hated most. Yes, sounds odd, but apparently the idea is that they get fed up reading all those novels day in, day out, and they think it's very unfair that they should be the only ones to suffer. So what they do is pick out one novel that they found particularly tiresome and give it the prize, so that everyone else rushes out and buys it and goes through the same torture. Yes, apparently the one they really liked best never even got on the short list. Yes."

**"The Day After"**  
"No, I didn't actually see the film. I don't like old horror movies. Nor do I have this American taste of horrifying yourself. The Americans absolutely adore being scared, you know - that's why Soviet Russia is such a godsend. But they also have Scars of the Year, a new flavour of scare, like herpes one year, AIDS the next, and the destruction of Kansas the next. Well, apparently the Russians have noticed this and they're now working on a new scare which is really going to scare the Americans. It's nuclear herpes. That's right. When the bomb finally goes off, it will give the Americans cold sores and ruin their sex lives."

**Computers**  
"Apparently this guy in a Scottish university did a survey on his home computer. He wanted to find out whether anyone, anywhere in Britain, had found a really valid and useful function for his home computer. You know how you read these brochures called *The Million Things You Can Do With Your Home Computer*, but the only ones they ever mention are playing games and listing phone numbers? Well, this guy in Scotland was very worried that home computers would become the skateboards of the future - Every Home Has One In The Attic - so he was very anxious to discover the valid uses now, so that he could publicize them. So anyway he got all his data together and fed it into the computer, then asked it the vital question: 'Are there any useful functions for home computers?' The only example it could find was some nut in Scotland doing a survey on the uses of home computers."

**The NGA**  
"Has it ever occurred to you that papers don't appear on big holidays, but that this doesn't give newspaper workers the day off, because they're working on the next day's paper? The only day that newspaper workers get off is the day before a holiday. Well, they're fed up with this. They want a public holiday same as anyone. That's what this NGA trouble is all about, apparently. Yes. This chap told me. He'd read Harold Evans's book."

## CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 229)

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30

- ACROSS
- 1 Livestock feed (6)
  - 2 Idle talk (6)
  - 3 Longest river (4)
  - 4 Women's underwear (8)
  - 5 Deserter (8)
  - 6 Adult males (3)
  - 7 Column base (6)
  - 8 Emergence (6)
  - 9 Type of reggae (3)
  - 10 Arabic counting system (8)
  - 11 Glacier fissure (8)
  - 12 Cut short (4)
  - 13 Killed in battle (6)
  - 14 Roof window (6)
- DOWN
- 1 Coward (4)
  - 2 Luxurious life (5,4)
  - 3 Kneepole (5)
  - 4 Christmas play (5)
  - 5 Difficult journey (4)
  - 6 Exclusive (5)
  - 7 Additional (5)
  - 8 Acknowledgement (5)
  - 9 Powerful whirlpool (9)
  - 10 Nuzzle (4)
  - 11 Primitives (4)
  - 12 Destiny (5)
  - 13 Antibody (5)
  - 14 Mountain nymph (5)
  - 15 Wicked (4)
  - 16 Good (4)

SOLUTION TO No 228

- ACROSS: 1 Banzi 5 Doff 8 Tramp 9 Tumbler 11 Delusion 13 Fain 15 Telegraphy 18 Ripe 19 Schnapps 22 Macramé 23 Loose 24 Ally 25 Elbow
- DOWN: 2 Avall 3 Zip 4 Introspective 5 Dumb 6 Fallacy 7 Study 10 Rind 12 Silk 14 Shun 15 Typist 16 Dram 17 Ashen 20 Probe 21 Wary 23 Lit

Duncan Fallowell

## Bad taste and good timing

*Liquid Sky*, the latest international hit movie in the weirdness category, is about

aliens from outer space who attach themselves to the bisexual world of New York's New Wave fashion/heroine set. But the dominant performance is the baleful, glittering presence of New York as a physical structure, almost as a breathing electronic organism. Manhattan has never looked creepier, or more majestic. The film is also very funny, full of sick humour, explosions of obscenity, video fun and dazzling sleaze.

"I wanted some Brechtian quality of detachment," says Slava Tsukerman, the director, talking in a crowded pub in Waterloo, surrounded by green spiky hair and the constant crunch of black leather. His own hair is rather odd, long ringlets flowing out of the neck and over his mackintosh. He is given to mirth generally which is just as well since he is a Russian Jew, born in Moscow in 1939, who arrived in New York in 1976 with his Russian wife.

These New Wave people I use are already extreme people who make a theatre of life," he says, "so when you film them it's like double theatre. My feeling is the more ambiguous the film, the better - including the comedy." His wife is in it too. She plays a fashion writer with cold, lesbian-style chic.

So what is Russian humour like? "That's a good question. The British tradition of dry black humour is very like Russian humour. But Russians get

very sad. It's a national characteristic."

*Liquid Sky*, with its oriental sense of colour and display, is a celebration of his own freedom: "I find decadence very good for showing the problems of society." It is also his first feature in the West, and by some fluke the first feature ever made by a Russian émigré in the US. Eisenstein tried and failed. Where did the money come from?

"A real-estate developer in Pennsylvania. Surprisingly easy, it turns out. Like my leaving Russia - for the visa I wait only one and a half months. It was good timing. Nixon's visit or something. Of course the moment you apply for the visa you are outlawed so you have to get it or your life is finished. I leave Russia for Israel on April 15, 1973 - *Liquid Sky* opened in the United States on April 15, 1983. Another piece of synchronicity: my Russian film career began with 20-minute shorts. I believe in Spring, which won a prize at the Montreal Festival in 1962, although the authorities didn't tell me, I eventually read it somewhere in a magazine, and my American career begins with the prize for originality at Montreal 1982."

Did he train as a filmmaker in Russia? "No, as a construction engineer." Then he registered as an amateur filmmaker, an official position since you cannot buy raw film in Russian shops, and began making science documentaries. "It's better now than in Stalin's times. In the last year of his life, 1953, only



Slava Tsukerman

two films were made in Russia because Stalin was cutting them himself and if he didn't like it you were killed. But comparing it to Khrushchev's revolution, which was that short spring, I once believed in, 1957-61, it's worse now."

But surely Tarkovsky, for example, can work abroad now. "Yes, this is new. When I left it was impossible to imagine that any director with a Russian passport could make a film outside Russia. Now two have done it - Tarkovsky and Konchalovsky. But the most talented Russian filmmaker, Paradjanov, who made *The Colour of Pomegranates* - he's only just out of prison."

Does he think we have a good picture of life in Russia? "I had breakfast this morning with some young people and one of them said he thought the American press was just as controlled by the government as the Russian press. So the first thing I have to explain is that there is no press in Russia, just government clerks releasing certain

things. But nobody believes propaganda any more in Russia, nobody believes in this perfect future society."

"But propaganda can still be powerful even when you don't believe it. For example, I expected very much to be homesick. This is one of my big points. If you read books about Rachmaninov or Stravinsky, they say they suffered tremendously abroad from homesickness and never created anything after they left Russia. I knew this was propaganda, but still I was frightened, sitting in a small restaurant in Moscow a couple of days before I left, feeling really terrible like it's the last time I can ever hear Russian conversation. But in New York there are almost as many Russian restaurants as in Moscow."

Would he like to say something about life in Moscow? "The only place you have crowds of people discussing modern poetry all through the night is Moscow." This appears to illustrate the principle that intellectual activity increases with physical repression. "Exactly. They talk because they cannot do anything. If you do anything you go to prison."

Presumably *Liquid Sky* cannot be shown in Russia? "Oh, never. They are repressed about everything, including sex. All communist societies are very repressed sexually."

*Liquid Sky* is currently showing in London at the ICA Cinema and the Classic, Chelsea.



WEDNESDAY PAGE

COMMENT

Exploiting sadness

With Christmas nearly upon us, the senses are assailed by a rash of posters and appeals for help for the poor and needy. Each pathetic image jostles for priority. But is the cause sometimes damaged as much by the distorted stereotype as it is helped by the money raised?

The Down's Children's Association knows well the dilemma of whether or not to exploit the pathetic in trying to pluck money from the heart strings. As an organization representing parents, professionals and Down's people themselves, the advertising men's advice has been questioned. But it is a tragedy that as hard as we struggle to present these children positively, picturing them in loving families or carrying on normal, everyday activities, others use them in lonely or helpless poses to raise money. The reason is clear. Down's children can be appealing and attractive, but at the same time are instantly recognizable by their "mongol" features. Sadly, with Down's Syndrome the commonest form of mental handicap, they have come to epitomise all mental handicap. But this is to forget that while some Down's children are indeed profoundly handicapped, the majority are not, and some have abilities in the near normal range.

None of this is conveyed in one of the award winning posters from the Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults. A pretty Down's girl stares out mournfully over the legend "Twenty children born on Christmas Day will always have a cross to bear". So successful was this that another poster used the same little girl accompanied by her mother. This time little Nina is smiling but the message is again negative, referring to her appearance in *Crossroads*: "You can switch off Nina's problems. Her mother can't". We must however, commend Central Television's original decision, at the behest of Mencap, to write a mentally handicapped person into a peak-time soap opera in an effort to reduce prejudice and ignorance. Inevitably a Down's child was chosen. However, the script-writer, Arthur Schmidt, admits that Nina is capable of doing a lot more than was shown on the screen.

It is not only the money-seekers who use the face of Down's Syndrome. The DHSS took full-page colour advertisements to advertise for mental nurses. A nurse with a saintly expression has a young Down's person clutched adoringly to each bosom: "You have to be someone special to get this kind of welcome at work". Take this and the Mencap posters together and as a by-product you might get the message: "It's hell at home but bliss in an institution".

Clearly this runs counter to the policies of both organizations. Nowadays the majority of Down's children are loved and cherished by their own families, who are constantly surprised by their abilities, defying traditional medical opinion that their prospects are those of a cabbage.

Down's families don't mind of advertising the need for help for the mentally handicapped, but let them also be the leaders of a new era of positive understanding.

Maggie Emslie

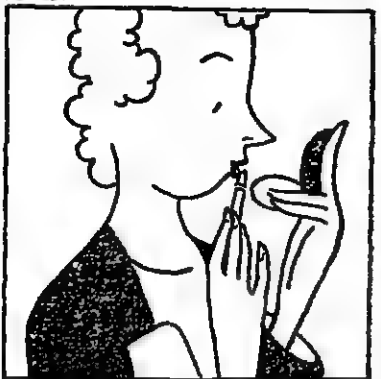
The author is Director of the Down's Children's Association



Advertising a wrong image?

Because Sophie couldn't get back from work in time, I was asked to do Rachel's hair for her first ball. She came upstairs in her dressing gown and sat at the cluttered desk I use as a dressing table. Could I make it look... well, different, she said, pushing at the thick coral-coloured bob. Scarlett had come to help in the way only younger sisters can, standing tremendously close to, and sometimes between, us both, and keeping up a steady flow of soothing chatter.

I twiddle away with heated rollers, hair driers, water sprays and round brushes. "How is it going to look?" asked Scarlett, rattling a can of spray-on mousse vigorously. "I don't know," I reply, truthfully, as the rollers come out and the backcombing begins. Rachel has brought up some blue and black ribbons to match her dress: we twist and tie them through her curls and fix it all with quantities of hair spray.



"I'm supposed to be there at seven," she says politely, her eyes on the clock which shows 6.43pm. Blue mascara, just a touch, lavender eye shadow and some pink lipstick, I smudge the mascara. "You've smudged it," breathes Scarlett, an inch away from the offending mark.

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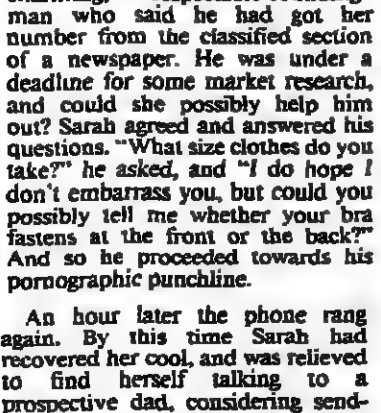
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Advertising a wrong image?



JOANNA LUMLEY'S DIARY

Bringing on the dancing curls



Quick smear of cleansing lotion, a final tweak here and pluck there. "Il faut souffrir pour être belle," I say. "She looks like Shirley Temple," mutters Scarlett and then, as the thunderclouds form "... but I like Shirley Temple".

Rachel races downstairs to put on her dress and shoes, and gallops back up to show the final result. Stripped as a reed in shimmering blue striped taffeta, blue spotted stockings, pale skin and clouds of gold curls, Rachel is transformed into a rare beauty. As she patters off to the car, we lean on the banisters and sigh and smile and shake our heads. I can remember the day she was born, Scarlett will be next, I suppose, if we can only pin her down.

The trading at Spitalfields Market is nearly over when we arrive, stiffed and yawning at 7 am. Our breath hangs in the air as we stamp our feet on the frosty cobblestones: through the slippery slacks of Christmas trees we see the small lights glimmering at the different stalls. Sam Levy leads us round, introducing us to the bosses. Would they be kind enough to send occasional packages of fruit and vegetables to the Refuge? To a man they agree, these generous giants of the market place.

We step gingerly round nets of sprouts and crates of avocados, stacks of green pineapples waiting to ripen, potatoes and onions, boxes of leeks and tangerines all fresh and gleaming and appetizing. It is nearly nine and high time for lunch ("This is my lunch," says a grinning lad, sitting on a crate of celery, munching a roll: he has been up since 2.30 am). We adjourn to a special pub where Sam gives us some traditional refreshment: toasted cheese sandwiches and black coffee with a sensible measure of whisky therein. By the time we get home, we are warm and sleepy and not fit for anything much but smiling.

A rather close friend of mine opened up a packet of dry-roasted peanuts in a tin foil pack. "Good Lord," he said, sniffing and reeling round the kitchen. "Greugh." I sniffed too. "Faugh." Waiting out from the silver-slit came a fearsome aroma, a revenge of which any butler would be proud. The nuts rattled obediently into a dish and were extremely good: to keep them tasting so delicious it seems they must be

stored in a gas to shame a sink bomb. How awful if someone were to open them behind a frightful bore as a party and tip-off, leaving him to explain away the deadly whiff.

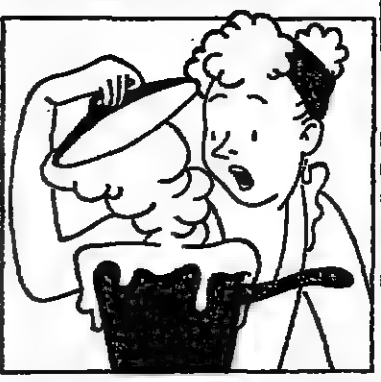
I couldn't get a taxi so I reluctantly drove my car to the Lichfield lunch. Having arrived, the only course of action was to leave the machine safely but illegally parked. Inside the Tai-Pan, all was meeting and eating and laughter, outside it was the Denver foot for the spivmobile. The saga involved buses and underground trains, long echoing subways, snarl buskers and the inflated King Kong and a duration of several hours.

The police couldn't have been kinder: the fact remains that the car chugging rigidly to her unlawful perch for half a day, what with one thing and another, which seems to me to be a strange way to sort out traffic congestion.

I found a packet of dried peas in the larder which had been there for 15 years. Being my mother's daughter, I incorporated them into a vegetable soup I was making. The instructions were complicated: "Empty peas into a bowl... submerge in boiling water... insert two tablets into muslin bag and stir until dissolved... leave overnight - stir..." and so on. A day later, I had some large chabby grey peas ready to cook.

Into the pot they went with all the other ingredients and on to a low flame: after an hour, I peeked under

the lid and saw that they had shed their skins, which now covered the surface of the soup completely like ghostly transparent puffs. I also have a tin of drinking chocolate which is marked 2s. 1d. I made some the other night which we drank in silence. I love thrift.



In the city square in Leeds the Black Prince, bracing himself in his stirrups and reigning in his stamping warhorse, points with approval at the Christmas tree, garlanded with lights and tinsel. He reminds me of the statues in Vienna: crowding along the roofs of the palaces, swinging their legs, pointing, advising, leaning over doors and staggering under the weight of buildings. Sometimes they fight furiously at street corners, sometimes stroll with arms on each other's shoulders or play violins.

In the gardens of the Schonbrunn Palace, a woman bathes her tiny baby in a circular pool. In the slanting winter sunlight, the icicles harden on her bare arms and the child wriggles in the freezing black water. Statues made nowadays are rather plonking, chaps just standing about; the exception is Jan Smuts, who comes into his own in the winter weather when he skates solemnly round Parliament Square.

FIRST PERSON

David Hunt

I don't like being taken for a ride

In these days of self-help, independence and isolation, disabled people are doing more and more for themselves with the help of "aids". An aid is, basically, something that reaches parts other devices cannot reach. This can mean anything from elasticated laces for converting your shoes into slip-ons to a car with drive-on access for a wheelchair.

At the recent Naides exhibition in London, they were all there - wheelchairs, walking frames, electronic sensors, kitchen gadgets, even British Telecom. There were 20 different ways of getting in or out of the bath and on or off the lavatory, electric beds bending and flexing before your very eyes, and an arrangement of monolithic high-rise chairs that looked like furniture from a giant's living room.

In the busy hustle of social workers, sales reps and occupational therapists it was still possible to spot the disabled, not especially by their handicaps. We were the ones clustered around the stands like children outside a sweetshop.

I would have liked one of the easy-to-operate, eye-level ovens on display. I have not used my own gas-cooker oven for more than a year now as it is too awkward to bend down to. However, I cannot afford the £500 needed to buy the special one. Like most disabled people, I am fairly hard-up.

Should I approach my local authority? Under the law, it is their responsibility to provide aids. The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, however, only obliges them; it doesn't force them. I am alright if what is involved is a simple lid-opener or kettle-holder, but anything costly and there will have to be assessment and discussion in high places.

I do not really blame the local authorities, especially mine, for the situation. They have the unenviable task of deciding between serious wants and great needs on an ever-diminishing budget.

There is, though, one area of the aids business in which I would dearly like to see a big shake-up. Ask any disabled person what he or she wants most and nine times out of ten the answer will be mobility.

In my own bid for freedom, I decided to get a "power chair". These are not supplied by any outside agency, but I knew I could buy one on hire-purchase by using my precious social security mobility allowance through a scheme called Motability. I chose a mid-range model that is basically a box. In it I proceed along the pavement at up to 4mph, very bumpily and with no weather protection. If I feel brave enough I will take on a kerb up to 5in high using my "kerb-climbers", and I must be even braver to reverse over a similar kerb, especially on to a busy road. I have no lights, horn or even anything to help shopping.

Indoors, the walls of my hall bear witness to the lack of controllability caused by front castor wheels. And, when at last I have manoeuvred my chair into the correct position for recharging, I have to grope, almost at floor level with two complicated seven-pin plugs. What will I end up paying for my power chair? No less than £1,500 (plus £20 for insurance). I also inquired about a foam seat-cushion, but they cost £85 so I am making do with a "non-aids" one!

Remember the great campaign by racing driver Graham Hill and Lord Snowdon over the lethal blue Ministry "trikes"? Now we need a champion to tackle the power chair companies. Otherwise their captive market will go on being exploited. As the sales rep admitted to me discreetly but with brutal candour: "They've got you where they want you, haven't they? You either buy one or stay indoors."

Coping with a telephone torment

Sarah Jane Checkland on the increasing menace of the obscene phone call - and how to combat it



The Englishman's castle is vulnerable in a number of ways, none more so than through that thin line of communication with the outside world, the telephone. It is bad enough just to be interrupted as you wallow in the bath. When the call is from one or other of the two telephone menaces, the salesman or the obscene caller, what a moment it can be.

We are in the midst of an obscene phone call boom. Official complaints to British Telecom from England, Scotland and Wales rose from about 80,000 in 1971 to 180,000 in 1980 (whereupon the comprehensive figures went silent because of BT's devolution). And these are only the ones that are reported: almost everyone I know has suffered a harassing call of some kind or another.

The culprits are often male, the victims female. The callers rate low on the perversion chart, less significant even than the flasher, although their methods can be quite sophisticated. The utilisation on their part and the shock element on yours comes from their advantage of surprise.

One case combined both "commercial" and "obscene" techniques. It began on a seemingly harmless note. Sarah from Fulham had just set up a business taking groups of students on tours abroad. One day she received a call from "a charming, respectable-sounding" man who said he had got her number from the classified section of a newspaper. He was under a deadline for some market research, and could she possibly help him out? Sarah agreed and answered his questions. "What size clothes do you take?" he asked, and "I do hope I don't embarrass you, but could you possibly tell me whether your bra fastens at the front or the back?" And so he proceeded towards his pornographic punchline.

An hour later the phone rang again. By this time Sarah had recovered her cool, and was relieved to find herself talking to a prospective date, considering sending his son Richard on the tour. "He

asked, 'I was really taken in'. When, after hearing the same propositions, Sarah ended the call, it gradually dawned on her that apart from the kicks he had already got, this man had all her vital statistics, her daily habits and her address.

She was terrified. His action was, to her, akin to rape, all the more so as he had exploited her kindness and good manners. He kept on ringing well into the night, leaving a sickening crop of messages on her answering machine.

What should you do in circumstances like this, as the telephone tumbles from your nerveless hand? Sarah rang the police, and a nice young constable came round. He reassured her and recommended various commonsense precautions such as: "Don't let any strangers in" and "Put the telephone down if he rings". He also told her that as no real threat had been made, no action could be taken. This sentiment was repeated by a spokesman at Scotland Yard, who said that as far as he was aware, "even obscene phone calls are not against the law".

It took British Telecom's Nuisance Calls information leaflet to get the facts straight. Under Section 49 of the British Telecommunications Act 1981 a person is liable if he means to cause annoyance by means of a public telecommunications service... a message or other matter which is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character or sends... a message that he knows to be false". The enforcement of this law is in the hands of the police. So far so good. But how can one prove who the offender is?

Some months ago I suffered the snorts and guffaws of a "nuisance caller" on a Saturday night. I rang British Telecom to ask the operator if he could either trace or block these calls. "No, sorry. There is nothing we can do on Monday," was the reply. "Why don't you take the phone off the hook?"

A spokesman said: "It's like poison pen letters and the Post

Office, we are just the carriers... but as a social service we have some obligation to help". The spokesman, courteous in the extreme, would not explain exactly what facilities were available for blocking and tracing "for security reasons". Instead BT recommends that subscribers report their problem to the local customer services manager. When asked whether he is on duty 24 hours a day, their answer is "Well, no".

I rang Plessey, makers of telephone systems, to find out what provisions they can offer. They said that to trace calls even with their latest equipment it will still be necessary to notify the exchange. There would be the opportunity to put the call on "hold", but as soon as you do that the offender would probably ring off.

At present, successful tracing of calls depends on a number of factors. First, there would have to be more than one of you present and you would have to have two phones. One of you must suffer the not-so-sweet nothings coming down the

line while the other rings the exchange for help. It might take up to 20 minutes, and the culprit's line would only be successfully traced if he or she was on the same exchange.

Henry Scope, a lawyer working in Gracechurch Street, London conducted this experiment some months ago with that rare bird, the female obscene phone caller. She was not on the same exchange, and therefore has not been traced.

I turned for advice to two groups who make unhappiness and unsolicited phone calls their business. Jean Burt at the Samaritans says: "Most who ring are scared stiff of women. Women don't understand this and get very frightened. Some of the people who ring us with sexual calls are very helpful".

The method of dealing with dirty callers recommended by the British Telecom leaflet is probably the most sensible. "Hang up gently, shouting no emotion. Many such callers hope for an emotional reaction and long conversations as they would like

nothing better than an exchange of insults. Do not give the caller the satisfaction: simply hang up".

Telephone marketing, or "junk selling" as it is called in the United States, is nothing like as sinister as the obscene call, and nothing like as prevalent. In a recent survey by the Department of Fair Trading, it was discovered that out of a cross-section of 1,500 telephone owners, only 21 per cent had ever received such calls.

Although the telephone salesman may be insidious or forceful, he can only be categorized as an irritation rather than a threat. He is trying to get at your money rather than at you, and judging by some of his methods (like shouting "Sale! Sale! Sale!" at the relevant moment), he will "burn himself out" within a matter of months. Most of his calls are business to business, and thus do not intrude into the home.

The survey found that at least half the telephone owners interviewed wanted unsolicited calls to be banned by law (as in Denmark and West Germany). Banning, however, would contradict Britain's legal position regarding privacy, namely that there is no right to privacy and that therefore there can be no invasion of privacy. The survey goes on to show that after having received calls of this kind, only 42 per cent still wanted the ban.

To protect the consumer, the Department of Fair Trading has drawn up a gentlemanly set of guidelines for the salesman. They include the following: the purpose of the call should be made clear at the outset; companies should make efforts to remove a name from a contact list if requested; there should be a cooling-off period during which the consumer can cancel an agreement. This is echoed in a list compiled by the British Direct Marketing Association.

In the case of unsolicited advertisements through the letterbox, the Department of Fair Trading has taken more specific steps. Apply to NPS Freepost 22, London E1 7E1 for an application form, and you can then specify exactly what sorts of advertising material you do and do not want.

Good resolutions for Christmas. Eat the fruit before it shrivels. Crack the shells, and do something with the stem ginger before it cements itself stickily to a shelf.

Solve that high-class savoury problem of what to do with the last of the caviar by serving it with eggs of another feather or buy the stuff specially for a sumptuous little dish that is just the thing for a Christmas brunch or dainty supper. Beluga may be best, but in this guise the outside red-gold orbs of salmon roe caviare at a quarter the price are highly recommended.

Set shelled, soft-boiled quails' eggs on a bed of creamy scrambled eggs and top with a spoonful of caviar. Then, depending on the mood and the occasion, eat them with buttery toast soldiers, triangular croutons of crisply-fried bread, or thinly-sliced brown bread and butter.

Put the quails' eggs in a pan of cold, salted water. Bring to the boil and cook the eggs for one minute only. Plunge them briefly into cold water to stop the cooking process. Shell the eggs and keep them warm in a

bowl of water that is not too hot to hold your hand in.

Break the hens' eggs into another bowl. Season them generously with salt and freshly-ground black pepper and beat them lightly. Melt the butter in a small, heavy pan and when it froths add the eggs. Stir them on a low heat until they are almost set, then stir in the cream. Taste to check seasoning.

Divide the scrambled egg between four small warmed plates. Arrange three quails' eggs on each serving and top with a teaspoon of caviar. Serve immediately with croutons, toast or bread.

It is curious how reluctant many people are to peel fruit for themselves and how much they enjoy eating it when the work is done for them. In the case of what are called in the trade soft citrus fruits - the tangerines, clementines and new cross-breeds - peeling is especially easy, and the quality, at this time of year, is high. Serve the seedless varieties peeled and thinly sliced with a festive splash of orange liqueur. Or cover individual segments in a brittle coat of caramel to eat as petits fours or sweets. Grapes can be given the same treatment, but both must be eaten within a few hours of coating because the caramel melts quickly in high humidity.

Caramel-coated clementines. Makes about 48 pieces. 6 medium seedless clementines. 450 g (1 lb) granulated sugar.

Make the most of goodies

150 ml (1/4 pint) water. A little oil.

Peel the fruit carefully without breaking the skin of each segment. Remove any pith and arrange the segments on a wire drying-rack with a little space between each piece. Leave in a warm, airy place for an hour or so - allowing the fruit to dry a little helps the caramel to stick to it.

Put the sugar and water in a heavy-based pan and heat slowly until the sugar has dissolved completely. Raise the heat and cook the syrup without stirring until it is a pale golden colour. Once the sugar turns to caramel it darkens very quickly and develops a bitter taste, so watch it carefully.

Have ready a bowl of hot water that the pan of caramel can stand in. And as soon as the caramel is ready, take the pan off the heat and stand it in the water. This will stop it cooking further and keep it liquid.

Using tongs or a couple of forks (sugar tongs work well) pick up the segments one at a time without piercing the skin and dip into the caramel. Set each coated segment on a well-oiled plate or tray and

THE TIMES COOK



Shona Crawford Poole

leave to cool. The sugar coating will be set hard.

Stem ginger in thick syrup tastes hot and mellow in the same breath. Addict it on its own or with cream or ice cream, an overpoweringly rich combination for everyone else. But drained of its syrup and finely chopped, a little stem ginger mixed with whipped cream is an interesting, filling for brandy snaps. It is also excellent in the topping for this unusually-flavoured apple crumble. The ground coriander adds another warm, aromatic taste.

Apple and ginger crumble. Serves four. 450 g (1 lb) peeled and sliced cooking apples. 55 g (2 oz) demerara sugar. 1 teaspoon ground coriander.

55 g (2oz) butter. 55 g (2 oz) demerara sugar. 55 g (2 oz) stem ginger, chopped. 1 teaspoon ground coriander.

Put the apples in an oven-proof dish. Mix the sugar and ground coriander and sprinkle the mixture over the fruit. Sift the flour into a bowl and add the butter cut in dice. Using your fingertips, rub the butter into the flour until the mixture resembles coarse breadcrumbs. Stir in the sugar, ginger and ground coriander.

Spoon this topping over the apples and bake the crumble in a preheated moderately hot oven (190°C/375°F, gas mark 3) for 30 to 40 minutes, or until the apples are cooked and the topping is lightly browned. The exact time will vary with the size of the dish.

A hazelnut cheesecake is a versatile standby for Christmas entertaining. It freezes well and can be served as cake or pudding. A word of warning though. Don't be tempted to make it with very low-fat soft white cheese; the result will be wet and grainy.

Hazelnut cheesecake. Serves 10 to 12. 55g (2oz) butter. 2 tablespoons demerara sugar. 225g (8oz) digestive biscuit crumbs. 225g (8oz) shelled hazelnuts. 900g (2lb) cream cheese (Philadelphia is fine). 1 teaspoon vanilla essence. 225g (8oz) soft brown or caster sugar.

4 large eggs. 55g (2oz) chocolate, coarsely grated (optional).

Choose a deep-sided, 20cm (8in) diameter cake tin with a loose bottom, and butter it well. If the tin has a fixed base, line it with baking parchment or greaseproof paper. Melt the remaining butter and mix it with the sugar and biscuit crumbs. Spread the mixture over the base of the prepared tin and spread it flat.

Spread the nuts on a shallow tray and bake in a preheated moderate oven (160°C/320°F, gas mark 3) for 10 to 15 minutes. Allow them to cool, then rub off the skins and grind the nuts finely. A coffee grinder will do this.

Put the cream cheese into a large bowl and beat until smooth. Beat in the vanilla, sugar, eggs and ground nuts. Four the mixture into the tin and bake in a preheated moderate oven (160°C/320°F, gas mark 3) for about 1 1/2 hours.

The cheesecake will puff up in the oven and when ready it is just firm and lightly browned. It will sink as it cools. Cool the cheesecake in its tin and chill it for 12 hours before running a knife round the edge and turning it out. Decorate the sides with coarsely-grated chocolate pressed on to the cake.

Anyone who's too mean to serve Smirnoff will realise just how wasteful fairy lights are.



SMIRNOFF

IF IT ISN'T SMOOTH IT ISN'T SMIRNOFF

Super market.



# THE TIMES DIARY

## Burning ambition

In April, at Wimbledon magistrates court, Dr Brian Davies was fined £1,000 with £200 costs for illegally receiving social security benefits amounting to £11,470.48. Dr Davies, a metallurgist, said: "I did it to expose inefficiencies in the DHSS", and personally reported the fraud to Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary. Now he wants to know why the DHSS seems reluctant to sue for the return of the money. Dr Davies has told Fowler and the DPP that if he is

## Action makes the heart grow stronger

denied his "day in court", he will burn down one of the department's buildings. In February, the same Dr Davies threatened to burn down five branches of the Midland Bank but was found not guilty under the terms of the Criminal Damage Act. Most fittingly, he is the male model in a health education council poster which carries the slogan, "Action makes the heart grow stronger."

## Crystal clear

What used to be the London Council on Alcoholism yesterday took on a name rather harder to swallow: the Greater London Alcohol Advisory Service, which can be neatly abbreviated to GLAAS. The council's annual report is not very cheery reading, and refers at one point to a time "when our spirits and finances were particularly low".

## Weighting game

Revelations about the earning powers of video-tape editors at London Weekend Television reminds me of a joke told by Granada's Gus Macdonald at this year's Edinburgh International Television Festival: What's the difference between an Arab oil sheik and a videotape editor at LWT? Answer: Arab oil sheiks don't get London weighting.

## False witness

Last week's QED programme on BBC1 showed a specially staged mugging scene which lasted 14 seconds. Viewers then saw an identical parade of nine men and were asked to telephone the programme to say whether they recognized the mugger. Of more than 1,800 people who rang, 1,300 chose the wrong man, making the odds two to one against an accurate identification. Tonight's QED programme asks what makes witnesses so unreliable.

BARRY FANTONI



"Your jokes are great, but you'll have to improve your handicap"

## Corps Domestique

Gin slings and ironed newspapers brought out to the verandah by silently gliding houseboys are no part of today's diplomatic life. Foreign office memorandum on diplomats' accommodation states: "At most posts nowadays the cost of extra servants is the biggest item, so we must be able to extract full value when we have to pay them." The design of diplomats' housing would also take into account "environmental considerations, the need to hold down domestic fuel consumption and the gradual disappearance of servants, leaving officers and their wives to cope with more of the domestic chores."

● Readers planning flying Christmas visits to friends and relations abroad should take Sellotape, ribbon and wrapping paper. The British Airports Authority warns that gifts already wrapped "may have to be opened" and advises passengers to wrap on arrival.

## Bible thumping

The Authorized Version of the Bible, otherwise known as the King James Version, is being promoted for the first time by its four publishers, the Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Collins and Eyre and Spottiswoode. The purpose of next year's £12,000 campaign is to bring "this most poetic version of the Bible to the attention of the public," says Alec Watson of Collins. He will certainly have support from Julian Critchley, who denigrated the New English Bible in an article entitled My Thirteen Worst Books, in this week's Sunday Times. He wrote: "It reduces to banality what was not only treasured and venerable but has become part of the English mind."

PHS

# Your turn to back off, Mr King

by John Lyons

The General Council's decision last week in refusing to commit the trade union movement to support unions openly defying the law was a turning point for the TUC. There never has been any doubt that the overwhelming majority of those affiliated to the TUC would not support actions designed to undermine the supremacy of Parliament and the law.

Some union leaders say they will organize the overthrow of that decision at next year's Trades Union Congress. It remains to be seen if they will succeed. If they do I think there will be a real, not imaginary, danger of the TUC splitting irretrievably.

However, that decision is for the future. What is certain is that last week's decision has changed the climate in which the TUC operates. It has done so to the advantage of the TUC, pulling it back in the main stream of British political life.

As a consequence the pressure is now on the Government to abandon its own ideological preconceptions about trades unions and demonstrate its good faith in its expressed desire for a genuine dialogue with the Congress.

Mr Tom King, the Employment Secretary can start the process by showing a willingness to consider serious amendments to the Trade Union Bill. There is, of course, the question of the political levy but that is already under discussion between Mr King and the TUC. However, other equally important issues have not been discussed. Part One of the Bill contains the provision that union's principal executive committees must be elected by direct postal ballot of the entire membership.

Apart from the fact that this would create havoc in many unions with perfectly good arrangements of their own, it suffers from three principal defects.

First, it is a dangerous precedent for the Government to set about determining by law how the internal affairs of voluntary associations should be organized. Second, in most unions the principal executive committees are responsible to periodic conferences and can be dismissed by them. When that is no longer the case, the Government's measure will leave the membership of a union without any formal means of enforcing a change in its committee's policies.

Third, the Government is contravening the principles which it set out earlier this year in its own Green Paper, *Democracy in Trade Unions*. Paragraph 18 said: "The Government is conscious that any legislation must take into account the wide variety and complexity of existing electoral arrangements". Later, paragraph 54 said, "The Government's prime aim... is to encourage trade unions... to reform their electoral arrangements so as to become... more democratic and more truly representative of their members' interests". It is not to be expected that the Government will withdraw Part One. But it could conform with its Green Paper principles if it were amended to allow the membership of each union to choose by ballot between its existing election arrangements, and methods

of changing them, and those the Government prefers. That would ensure that the Government's methods would have to be considered but the final decision would be taken by the membership.

There are other amendments the Government should consider. For example, the Bill defines a strike as anything that involves a person breaking his contract of employment or interfering with his performance. Any such acts authorized by a trade union will have to be authorized by ballot. The expression of a workers' grievance by extending the tea break would need a ballot. It is absurd.

Then there is the requirement that any union given authority to take strike action must do so within a month. This could actually worsen disputes: unions will be forced to use their mandate at the end of four weeks when, perhaps, a fifth week of negotiations would avert the need.

Mr King could also take the opportunity to right the manifest injustice of the High Court's decision in the Dimbleby case, a result of which is that an employer can vitiate lawful industrial action simply by registering his company under another name.

But whatever the details, the important point is that last Wednesday's decision was a watershed and the Government should now meet the TUC at least halfway. If it does not do so, then for the first time since 1979 the Government will find itself put on the defensive, politically, in its handling of trade union issues. Much will flow from that.

The author is General Secretary of the Engineers' and Managers' Association.

## David Watts on the election blow to Japanese-western relations

## The bribe that swamped Ron and Yasu

Singapore Only five weeks after President Reagan's visit to Tokyo, hopes of a closer relationship between Japan and the West have been damaged, perhaps irreparably for the foreseeable future, by Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone's setback at the polls.

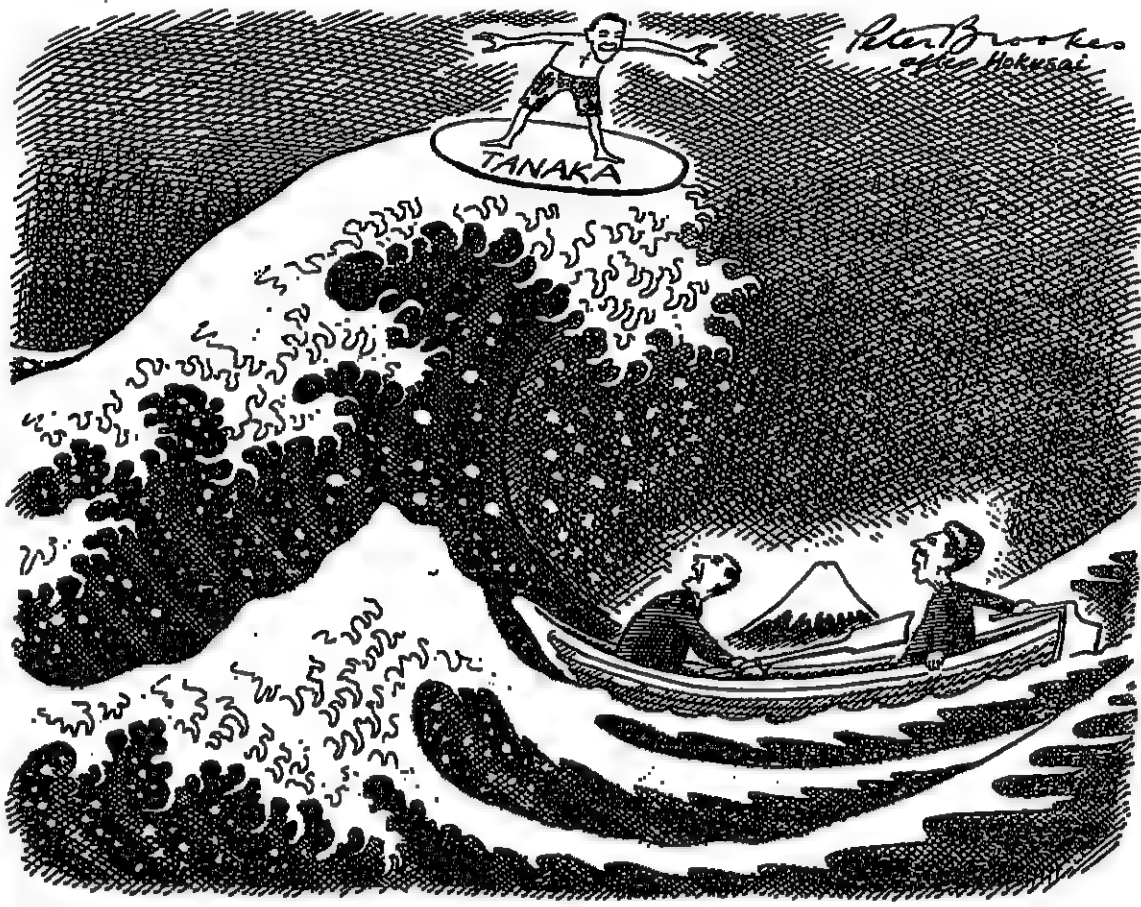
The prime minister was forced to call the election in the wake of the conviction of his predecessor, Mr Kakuei Tanaka, for accepting a \$2m bribe from Lockheed. For the West, it could prove one of the most expensive bribes in history.

More than any other postwar prime minister, Mr Nakasone's vision of Japan's role in the world coincides almost exactly with western expectations: a Japan more assertive in foreign and military affairs, more responsive to trade problems and more willing to integrate itself into the western world in the trust sense. No other senior Japanese politician is as pro-western.

During their talks - in which they were soon on "Ron" and "Yasu" terms - Mr Reagan and Mr Nakasone reached a whole series of understandings. The visit was marked by genuine warmth, at least on the international plane. Ironically the understandings were kept under wraps by the Americans for fear that they might jeopardize Mr Nakasone's chances during the elections.

In the event, he might have been able to distract some attention away from the damage ethics-in-politics issue which contributed to much of the Liberal Democratic Party's reversal if he had played up his international standing.

With a solid election victory behind him, Mr Nakasone had planned to increase Japanese defence spending and defence cooperation with the US, particularly by undertaking more reconnaissance flights over the Pacific. He had also planned to open up the Japanese



market to greater imports of American beef and citrus fruit. More importantly, he intended to shake up the Japanese capital markets and internationalize the yen to help reduce the disparity between the yen and the dollar, which the US feels is contributing heavily to the trade imbalance between the two countries.

Foreign affairs did not play a significant part in the campaign, but the image of Mr Nakasone as world-class statesman holding his own with Mr Reagan was expected to wash over domestic issues.

In the event, factional fighting over the Tanaka issue so divided the LDP that in many cases the party lost its own vote by failure to liaise with members of other LDP factions competing in the same constituency. The party squandered its resources by fielding 339 candidates for the 270 seats it hoped to capture.

Even in the best of all possible worlds, what Mr Nakasone had promised Mr Reagan would have been difficult to deliver. But now the

glacial progress towards the liberalization of Japanese markets will become even slower. If Mr Nakasone had made an issue of greater defence spending he might have won a good measure of public support. One of his advisers thinks he might even have got public support for allowing the British carrier *Invincible* into a Japanese port after it was barred from Australia.

There is a growing feeling that he should have tried to capitalize on issues in which he believes strongly: in the event he went on the offensive and allowed the initiative to pass to the opposition.

So, far from being in a position to make good his promises to Mr Reagan, Mr Nakasone now finds himself with a tiny majority fighting for his political survival. Today there is no margin of support left over for the exotica of foreign policy. Though he is likely to survive the initial hurdle of confirmation as prime minister before an early session of the Diet, even the less controversial issues of domestic

policy will mean that he has to bargain with the opposition to get his government's legislation passed.

Issues throughout the next year will move slowly, doggedly by compromises. There will scarcely be support for concessions to foreign countries on trade or anything else. "I am very much afraid about the future of the Japanese-American relationship," said a leading Japanese commentator.

One American diplomat said the much-vaunted "agenda for progress" initiated during the Reagan visit would now enter a tricky stage.

Mr Nakasone will most probably be able to muddle along until the next election for the presidency of the Liberal Democratic Party next November. It is possible that he will be re-elected, but few think this is likely.

The probable outcome will be the accession of a new prime minister who will have to be much more cautious than Mr Nakasone on all issues on which the West has been seeking progress.

## After Harrods, a ray of light from Dublin



Mrs Thatcher and Dr Fitzgerald: united by a shared experience of atrocity

several members of the Ulster Defence Regiment and the Royal Ulster Constabulary arraigned on murder charges.

The Darkly killings happened less than three weeks after Dr Fitzgerald had met Mrs Thatcher at Chequers, the first Anglo-Irish summit meeting since relations were frozen at the time of the Falklands conflict. British officials concede that Dr Fitzgerald was remarkably effective at that meeting. He impressed on the Prime Minister his concern about the political growth of Provisional Sinn Féin and the alienation of the Catholic community in Northern Ireland. He argued that the British took neither of these developments sufficiently seriously and did not comprehend the very real threat of the violence spreading to the Republic and even to Britain itself. British sources have since said they believe the Irish Premier did counsel Mrs Thatcher that Northern Ireland was an issue of the most urgent importance.

But there is another reason why Dr Fitzgerald may have impressed Mrs Thatcher. The government he leads is implacably opposed to the Provisionals, whether in the political guise of Sinn Féin or the violent one of the IRA. Since he came to power accusations about being "soft" on the Provos have been directed from Dublin to London rather than the other way round. Irish politicians have been angry that British officials and even ministers in Belfast have been prepared to deal with Provisional Sinn Féin on constituency matters. They suspect that the British see Gerry Adams, the president of Sinn Féin, as one of a long line of terrorists stretching from Jomo Kenyatta to Robert Mugabe, with whom they have, in the end, been prepared to talk.

This week the Irish government is likely to be pressing much harder than the British towards finally proscribing Sinn Féin. Even the Haughey, usually depicted in Britain as an arch-Republican, has said that he will back the government in any measures it thinks necessary.

What both London and Dublin want in the short term is much

closer cooperation on security, particularly in the border areas. It has long been on the cards that when the New Ireland Forum reports next spring it will include proposals for a joint security force, involving the armies and police forces of the Republic and Britain. Another idea being canvassed is for a joint court in which judges from both sides of the border could sit together to try terrorist offences.

In the past the problem with such radical security proposals has always been seen to be the political difficulties they would present to both sides. Northern Unionists and many members of the Conservative Party would regard the involvement of the Irish army and police in operations on the northern side of the border as a de facto diminution of Britain's sovereignty in the province. They fear that other political initiatives strengthening Northern Ireland's links with the Republic would inevitably follow. On the Irish side, many politicians who wanted to play the green card could raise the spectre of British soldiers patrolling in border towns like Dundalk. There has also been anxiety about how Irish public opinion might react if their soldiers and policemen were shot by the IRA.

Such objections may carry much less weight now. Irish soldiers and policemen have been killed by Republican gunmen and others could be. The killing in the North shows no sign of abating. Families doing their Christmas shopping in London are now at risk. If there is any light it is that, perhaps for the first time, the bloodshed which has its roots in the politics of Northern Ireland seems likely to bring the British and Irish governments closer in seeking a common solution.

Mary Holland

Phillip Whitehead

## Reuters: taking too much on trust?

Christmas will be late this year for a select group of lucky newspaper proprietors. They will have to wait a little longer for the public flotation of Reuters, from which some of them expect to make vast windfall profits. The problem with this present is the wrapping, for it was designed to stop Reuters ever becoming anyone's bran tub. The wrapping is the Agreement of Trust, by which the owners of Reuters bound themselves in 1941 to regard their holdings as "in the nature of a trust rather than as an investment". Reverse that proposition, and you understand why expectations will be rising in the spring of 1984, as the glittering present is unwrapped. Because of the large profits earned by its business-information service, Reuters might be worth £1,000m if it were floated as a public company on the stock market.

The owners have seen their companies revalued upwards this year in anticipation of such a bonanza. The two biggest Reuters shareholders, Lord Rothermere's Associated Newspapers and Lord Matthews' Fleet Holdings, each has more than 12 per cent of Reuters. News International has 9 per cent. Reed International 7.9 per cent, and so on down. On a billion-pound float, without strings, Lord Rothermere and Matthews could clear £120m each, Mr Murdoch £90m and Reed International £79m. The latter group is floating off Mirror Group Newspapers, on the buoyancy which comes from its expected share of the Reuters spoils.

This could prove in itself to be a cruel blow to the diversity of a free press in Britain. The Mirror Group papers have, not uncritically, given general support to the Labour opposition. That has sometimes meant a courageous editorial line, against the grain of the tabloid-fed majority opinion of the day. It is hard to see how that line can be held, once Mirror Group Newspapers is floated as a public company, obliged to act in the best interests of its shareholders - whoever they are.

The Opposition has been pretty mute about the *Daily Mirror*. It should examine the wider issues behind the sale, which will lead it to the reason why it is happening at all: the Reuters bazaar. The issues are the same, whether we are safeguarding the expression of a viewpoint or the integrity of impartial coverage. Both are needed in the diversity of the press; neither can be guaranteed by the impulses and spasms of the money market. The *Spectator* should look at the assumptions behind the Reuters sale, and the likely consequences. Reuters says that "a public issue would raise money for the further development of the company, as well as funds for its controlling shareholders". But which aim came first?

The present owners of Reuters have discovered that its Monitor system of international business information has been a tearaway success. Over the past 10 years it has expanded to account for 90 per cent of the business, with accelerating profitability. Last year Reuters paid a dividend, worth in all £2.5m, and allowed a selected handful of senior staff to buy shares. This year the profits are expected to top £50m. So do Reuters' owners see a pressing need to go to the capital market for investment funds, or for easy profits for themselves? Before they are allowed to amend the Agreement of Trust, which their predecessors signed in 1941, might we not

examine the position of trustees like Lord Matthews, who are both proponents of the flotation and principal prospective beneficiaries.

The Agreement is an extraordinary document. Its provisions are widely known, thanks to a campaign of filial fervour by Alexander Chancellor in *The Spectator*, who has made a single-handed attempt to finger Lord Matthews and his fellow trustees. The Trust was cobbled together in 1941, after a barrage of parliamentary criticism of the way in which the national proprietors had bought a half interest in Reuters. Samuel Storey, then chairman of Reuters, wanted "a trust which would be representative of national interests and of Reuters spheres of action, and would hold the shares and the income arising therefrom for the maintenance of Reuters as an independent British-owned news-agency."

The new owners signed the Agreement among themselves. It was to terminate only on liquidation, on a stock transfer "submitted to and approved by the Lord Chancellor of England," and otherwise 21 years after the death of the last surviving descendant of Queen Victoria alive in 1941. It set out a simple definition of independence and integrity, and defined the shareholdings as a trust rather than an investment. We are now told that this Trust is bust. It is a mere shareholders' agreement.

The Attorney-General disclaims responsibility for it; no charitable issues are involved. The Lord Chancellor has never heard of it. Lord Matthews need not wait until the twenty-fifth anniversary of the death of the Duke of Kent before he cashes in his stake.

Reuters has reacted with pained surprise to such public criticism as there has been. It has denied any intention to hive off the business-information services. But what guarantee have we that once accountable to a new ownership, greedy for pickings, Reuters will not scale down news services which are individually inoffensive, which are crucial to the flow of information in the small countries to which they are relayed? With asset-strippers at large in Fleet Street, Reuters journalists have been rightly nervous of their reputation for independence and impartiality. The management has responded as though they were the threat to the integrity of Reuters.

Finally, Parliament should act. pick up Mr Storey's concept of an independent trust set out in 1941. It should do so before any prospectus is issued. The present trustees are hopelessly compromised. You cannot put forward a scheme, and be a beneficiary from it, when it fundamentally alters the agreement for which you stand trustee. The Lord Chief Justice should be asked to report on the Trust in the light of its proposed amendment. The Trust should be broadened, with members independent of the owners. It should be given a rewritten agreement, with guarantees on ownership which keep control within the national and local press institutions of Britain, Australia and New Zealand, the three countries concerned.

And if that makes Warburg despair of putting together a package which can be sold to the financial institutions, why anyone be the poorer, except those who counted their windfall profits too early, and the dangers of what they proposed too late?

The author was Labour MP for Derby, North, 1970-83.

David Walker

## The politicians who just don't rate

Pity the fate of junior minister William Waldegrave. He began 1983 at the Department of Education debating the future of universities and colleges, mingling with folk in gowns who spoke his *All Souls* language. He ends it newly dragged from the sea of radioactive waste at Sellafield (one of his responsibilities at Environment) and put in charge of setting the rate-capping bill not only to reluctant councillors, but to a Parliament which even on the whips' optimistic arithmetic is astonishingly restive, and to a public which remains, as usual at the mention of municipal matters, largely indifferent.

When in doubt, it seems, send for a minister to coordinate the Government's message: Lord Whitelaw. Or set up a propaganda unit, as at Environment. Doubt there most certainly is.

In a speech last week we heard Mr Peter Rees, the Treasury Chief Secretary, saying in one breath that the overwhelming body of rate-payers are crying out for the relief offered by the rate-capping plan. In the next, straining to hear their sotto voce protests, he says wistfully: "I hope their case does not go by default."

Meanwhile Mr Patrick Jenkin attempts a media spin in the manner of Mr Michael Heseltine, but succeeds in leaving an impression of half-bakedness. The publication of the bill itself makes things little clearer. The Government's purposes appear confused: capping the rates of 15 councils will not necessarily cure the persistent problem of "overspending".

Mr Jenkin's colleagues give every sign of leaving him dangling in the breeze. When was the last time you heard Sir Keith Joseph say anything about capping rates? He, however, is responsible for the education budget, the largest element in local spending and without doubt the one area from which large cuts must come if rate-capping is to have any significant effect.

While the Government dithers, the well-oiled machine of municipal

protest moves into gear. Hackney may be poor and suffer great cuts, but it can still afford a squad of professional public relations specialists. Grand claims of constitutional propriety come from local government's captive academic friends. The municipal unions bluster, as well they might, for this bill will surely have failed unless within three years the rate of decline in council staffing is accelerating in years from 1980-82, when jobs were last being reduced.

Yet for all the din, for all the petitions displayed on library corners, for all the press releases, local government finance will remain an esoteric pursuit.

The public has shown that it gets agitated when a school closes; when rates demands really hurt (that has happened only recently to middle-class residents of city areas); when, despite the signs displayed prominently on the side of council dustcarts about gratuities, the dustman still comes knocking on the door to offer seasonal greetings with menaces. But when it comes to civic participation, to caring about what does happen in the town hall, to knowing who pulls the levers to make the municipal system work - count me out.

Take, of all boroughs, Camden: regularly in the news, with an excellent local paper, glamorous councillors. Here, surely, the people should know what is being done and spent in their name.

How many people, MORI asked recently, know the name of a single councillor who represents them? Answer: one person in five. How many even know which ward they live in? Answer: 23 per cent.

In other words, the foundations of the local government system as a working model of democracy are shaky. Rate-capping raises important issues of practice and principle, but beware "spokesmen" and ministers who claim to be speaking for a public that, until now, has basked in its silent ignorance of rates, of caps and who runs the town hall in its name.





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## PARISH PUMP IMPERIALISM

The Rates Bill is misnamed. Of course it would suit ministers to appear as white knights saving the householders of Barnsbury and the factory owners of South Yorkshire from councillors who have sadly abused the tax weapon given them by the traditional system of property rating. But unless the Government has given itself over to quixotry, its ambitions must surely be larger. The Government is relying on this Bill to secure two objectives that have consistently eluded it: the control and reduction of local spending. Rates, let it not be forgotten, are only one element in the process of council spending: they are by no means an infallible guide to town hall excess. It is not rate levies but aggregate spending that, within no more than two years, will prove this contested piece of new law.

The theory of "rate capping" is deceptively simple. Pin the excess of spending, the unmanageability of the municipal system on the few easily-named Labour city councils: control their spending; a general problem is solved as other councils take heed. Yesterday's briefings made much of "shadow effects" and "fringe areas" by which councils outside the selective scheme suddenly would see reason. Yet here is where the Government's argument in the Bill runs into the sand. If Islington, Hackney, Manchester and Newcastle upon Tyne are

uniquely culpable, then what need is there of demonstration effects? And unless the "high-spending" councils are responsible for exceeding the Treasury's targets year after year what is the argument behind the Government's wish for a general power to set the spending of each and every council in England and Wales?

In seeking to get the Labour-controlled city authorities squarely in the sights of his selective scheme Mr Jenkin is asking Parliament for elastic powers, so extensible he might as well name his list of guilty councils now and save tedious committee discussion. But no, the Bill bends over itself to involve Parliament at various stages of naming councils and setting their spending. Mr Jenkin's schemes appear perfectly manageable if councillors cooperate in good faith. That is unlikely and the prospect is one of huge bargaining sessions involving civil servants, ministers and members of Parliament and stretching over several months. The Bill says there are to be 45 extra civil servants - at first, without a significant increase in the time devoted by central offices to the detail of local spending the Bill poses grave dangers of maladministration.

It also calls into question the consistency with which the Government is prepared to tackle the issue of local spending. The councils on Mr Jenkin's

little list are endearingly termed under another departmental rubric "partners": Hackney and Islington and the rest receive special money under the Inner Urban Areas Act. Rate-capping shoots a hole clean through inner cities policy for it really no longer makes much sense for more than £400 million to be pushed into special projects for precisely those areas from which Mr Jenkin hopes to save hundreds of millions. To make rate-capping work will involve not only his own officials speaking with a single voice. It will not do for the departmental ministers responsible for schools and social services and law and order to hold themselves aloof from the battles to come. Rate capping means cuts in departmental empires.

For the long and short of rate-capping is jobs. The bulk of local spending pays for the employment of street-sweepers, professional "volunteers", teachers, nuclear-free-zone officers; the Rates Bill will succeed in its own terms if and when the manpower watch for local authorities resumes its downward movement. During the months of this bill's Parliamentary passage there will, and rightly, be talk of constitutions, the balance of power in the state, ministerial dictatorship. But if it passes, the focus will have to shift to a lower plain. Numbers of staff in town hall and school staff room will be the arithmetical test of its success.

## Royal commission for London's future

From Mr Geoffrey Alderman and others  
Sir, The proposals to abolish the Greater London Council and replace it with appointed bodies must be deeply worrying to anyone with a concern for genuine local democracy and long-established constitutional conventions.

A constitutional change of such importance is out of keeping with its brief, last-minute inclusion in the Conservative Manifesto. The issue has not been clearly discussed in public, nor did it play a significant role in the election campaign.

Constitutional changes of such magnitude must be based on a large measure of agreement. The right course now, as in the past, is to establish a royal commission to make proposals for more effective elected local government in London - and in the six metropolitan areas too - for Parliament to consider and report on and to take account of the views of the citizens both in London and the metropolitan boroughs. A royal commission preceded the ending of the LCC and the establishment of the GLC.

The Government proposes, during the transition period, to replace a democratically elected council with a body of substitute councillors nominated by the 32 London boroughs without any further election either at the GLC or borough level. The political composition of the boroughs is well known. Not merely does it threaten the principle of elected local councils, but it threatens to bring fundamental constitutional arrangements into an angry and uncertain partisan future.

The abolition of the GLC would make London the only capital city in the civilised world without a directly elected governing council. A century of democratic local control of London-wide services would end and a basic shift of power to the central state would begin.

The Government's scheme, moreover, in its White Paper, *Stream-*

## Violation of human rights in Turkey

From Mrs Diana Spearman  
Sir, It is natural that the distinguished university teachers who signed the letter (December 14) attacking the Turkish Government's educational policy should be disquieted by the reported dismissal of a number of Turkish academics. The reference in the letter to "university autonomy", however, shows a certain lack of knowledge of the background.

Arguments for autonomy are undermined if the universities are unable to prevent political differences escalating into such violence that the universities were, before 1980, closed for months at a time. Both members of the staff and students died in these disturbances.

I have heard criticism of the Army, from those who did not wholeheartedly support the military government, for not going in and restoring order before the military takeover. Moreover, the National Security Council were promoting a complete reconstruction of university education.

In the paragraphs relating to the prosecution of the members of the "peace movement" the letter almost gives the impression that the signatories believe that academics and intellectuals should be exempt from the law. If the prosecution allegations are correct there is no doubt that the members of the peace movement were guilty under Turkish law, a law with which they must have been familiar.

The sentences may seem heavy for the offences, but in considering sentences passed by Turkish courts one has to remember that while one is in the habit of imposing long sentences, Turkish governments frequently proclaim amnesties from which everyone benefits, except those who have committed offences against the forest laws. If you kill a man you can in all probability look forward to a fairly early release; if you cut down a tree you stay inside.

It is a pity that that letter repeats the statement that the law against communism was copied from Mussolini's Italy. Atatürk was quite capable of judging communist law as himself and he did not like it. As he always expressed the greatest contempt for Mussolini and disliked what he knew of fascism it is most unlikely that he sought inspiration from Italy. Communism is not the only creed banned by the various Turkish Constitutions: fascism and Islamic fundamentalism are equally prohibited.

I remain etc,  
DIANA SPEARMAN,  
7 Lord North Street, SW1,  
December 15.

## Conventional query

From Lord Gladwyn  
Sir, The American film called *The Day After* - not nearly horrible enough in my own opinion - was in any case less significant than the subsequent discussion, more especially the contribution of Robert McNamara. At last the real issues are becoming clear to the average intelligent citizen.

Your excellent correspondent, Ronald Butts, is a case in point. He acknowledges (feature, December 15) the strength of the McNamara argument in favour of "No first use", already for some years advanced by Lord Carver, Lord Zuckerman and myself, but perceives in it a flaw. Supposing, he says, the Russians attacked and were not successful owing to a, in itself desirable, reinforcement of Western "conventional" defences, would they not, in order to avoid "defeat", themselves, threaten the West with nuclear weapons, the use of which the West had already "renounced"?

But the flaw is in this suggestion. There is no question, except in the CND, of the West's "renouncing" nuclear weapons: only the first use of such weapons.

The Russians, in the event contemplated, could not so threaten the West unless they were themselves prepared to accept nuclear annihilation. Nor would the Soviet Government, in such an event, necessarily have to accept "defeat". There would no doubt be some sort of negotiated settlement. It is even more evident that, should the West successfully rearm, there would be no war of any kind.

It is quite true, on the other hand, that if the Russians attacked with "conventional" weapons only and were successful, as they might well be if the West is really unable to strengthen its "conventional" defences, the West, having renounced "first use", could not seek to redress the situation by nuclear means and might therefore have to accept "defeat". But to any rational mind such "defeat" would be preferable to national annihilation. For "defeat" might, one day, be rectified: annihilation is for ever.

The hope, however, is that the Soviet Government will never launch an offensive which, even if "successful", might result in the breakup of its "empire". For they can hardly benefit from having a ruined and potentially rebellious Europe on their hands. In the past the Russians, I believe, have never directly attacked any major Power: they have simply profited by the weakness of their neighbours.

Yours truly,  
GLADWYN,  
House of Lords.

## Sauce for goose

From Mr R. A. Leeson  
Sir, Today (leading article, December 10) you write: There will be a need to prevent any recurrence of a situation where the underlying Argentine feeling on the Falklands can be exploited for domestic political purposes leading to a knee-jerk reaction with tragic consequences.

For "Argentine" also read "British".

Yours faithfully,  
R. A. LEESON,  
18 McKenzie Road,  
Broxbourne,  
Hertfordshire,  
December 10.

## Sweet music

From Dr Christopher Field  
Sir, Reviewing a performance of *Messiah* (December 7) your music critic, Mr Noel Goodwin, refers, in a provocative passing allusion, to "the whining strings of baroque scholarship". I shall be grateful if you will permit me, on behalf of all those who have tried to combine science and practice in this field, to rebut this ill-aimed slur.

To G. B. Doni, writing shortly before Monteverdi's death, the violin was an instrument of unsurpassed expressive range which represented "in the hands of a master the sweetness of the lute, the suavity of the viol, majesty of the harp, force of the trumpet, vivacity of the flute, sadness of the flute and pathos of the cornet". Dryden, in an ode later set by Handel himself, celebrated the power of the band of violins to convey "depth of pain, and height of passion", while the French lexicographer Brossard characterized the violin's sound as "naturally very bright and very gay,

which makes it ideal for animating dance steps".

One of Leopold Mozart's first lessons to pupils was to practise producing "a forthright and manly tone". Descriptions of leading seventeenth and eighteenth-century violinists, against which any modern recreation of "authentic" baroque technique and style must be measured, speak frequently of the sweetness, tenderness, serenity, elegance, spirit, agility and fire of their playing.

It was for such men that Nicolo Amati, Stainer and Stradivari made their instruments, all of which, it must not be forgotten, were originally "baroque" violins played with "baroque" bows. But I know of no evidence at all that points to "whining" as either a characteristic or an ideal.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER FIELD,  
Department of Music,  
The University,  
St Andrews,  
Fife,  
December 12.

## Freezing point

From Mr Lewis Massey  
Sir, In his report ("Antifreeze test led by garage", December 13) Robin Young says that the West Midlands County Council has been unable to find a satisfactory method of testing antifreeze.

For those who have a domestic refrigerator with a deep-freeze compartment, or a freezer, the test is very simple. Take out a couple of teaspoons of coolant from the car radiator or expansion tank, pour it on a saucer, and leave it for an hour or so in the freezer or deep-freeze compartment.

If the antifreeze mixture is correct, the liquid will not freeze solid but will turn mushy, even at a temperature of -20°C, far lower than is likely to be encountered in a normal British winter.

Yours faithfully,  
LEWIS MASSEY,  
20 Orchard Rise,  
Groombridge,  
Tunbridge Wells,  
Kent,  
December 13.

## Keeping the peace

From Mr Michael Adams  
Sir, In 1956, when it was eager to bring down the government of President Nasser in Egypt, the British Government made the mistake of collaborating with Israel. The United States, under the Eisenhower leadership, immediately dissociated itself from Britain and was afterwards to do something to repair the damage.

Today, President Reagan has made the same mistake of enlisting Israel's help in his attempt to browbeat President Assad of Syria into submission; and this is bound to make it harder for any Arab government to cooperate with the West.

Our own Government was not consulted before the Americans began to bomb Syrian positions in the Lebanon, although the safety of our troops was placed in jeopardy by this foolish initiative. There is no reason why the British, French and Italian forces, which were sent to

## Saved from the gong

From Mr Charles Fyffe  
Sir, In his review in *The Times* of December 8, Sandy Wilson writes: "The gong" being a policeman who at that time, used to chase speeding motorists beating, if you can believe it, a gong.

No, I can't, because he didn't. To be "gonged" meant you had been pursued by a police car that sounded a bell; mechanically sounded, not manually.

In fact the bell was used until replaced by the horrible French-style donkey bray now in use.

Yours faithfully,  
CHARLES FYFFE,  
52 Holmdale Road, NW6,  
December 4.

## FROM ONE DEFEAT TO ANOTHER

When Mr Yassir Arafat left Beirut in August 1982 it was widely felt that he had succeeded in turning military defeat into moral and political victory. Though easily overrun in South Lebanon, his men had fought with surprising tenacity in Beirut against overwhelming odds, and Israel, in her attempt to crush them, had used methods which earned her the almost unanimous obloquy of world opinion. The Palestinians sailed from Beirut with their heads held high, apparently certain that their movement would live on.

That illusion of victory has cost them dear, for it enabled them to avoid facing up to the consequences of what had in fact been a serious defeat. Mr Arafat himself seemed to realise that his only hope of capitalising the moral victory in Beirut was to make clear the PLO's willingness to accept a peaceful compromise settlement with Israel, to be achieved through the good offices of the United States. He even realised the importance of not turning down President Reagan's peace plan, in spite of the fact that it ignored the PLO and ruled out an independent Palestinian state, and he worked hard to achieve a common negotiating platform with King Husain of Jordan. But he lacked

the moral stature to spell out the implications unambiguously, and in the end he was unable to carry his own supporters with him. Then, in May this year, all the long-stifled grievances against his leadership within the movement boiled over in the mutiny in the Bekaa, which the Syrian regime, having grievances of its own, was quick to exploit.

Political gambits are subject to a law of diminishing returns. The moral benefit which Mr Arafat got from resisting the Israelis in the streets of Beirut has hardly been revived by the repeat performance staged against Syrians and fellow-Palestinians in the streets of Tripoli. True, he has succeeded in putting his opponents in the wrong. But he himself emerged from Tripoli yesterday a diminished and tawdry figure.

Even the considerable propaganda coup which he achieved in extremis by negotiating the release of 4,500 Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners in exchange for six Israelis was spoiled when his group claimed responsibility for the murderous attack on a Jerusalem bus, which was disowned publicly even by some known PLO supporters on the West Bank. The subsequent suggestion by his lieutenant,

"Abu Jihad", that the civilian vehicle might have been hit "by mistake" is on a level with the IRA statement after the Harrods bomb. In both cases, the only encouragement to be drawn from it is that at least the authors of both statements now realize that indiscriminate attacks on civilians carry a high political cost. In the circumstances Israel's determination to deny Mr Arafat a comfortable departure from Tripoli is understandable, though by prolonging the end-game she will hardly have endeared herself to his increasingly unwilling hosts, the Lebanese.

Mr Arafat is now on his way to Tunis, but the expectation is that he will soon be back in Amman trying to pick up the threads of his dialogue with the King. That would be a wiser course than trying to restore the unity of the PLO, since the latter could now be achieved only on Syrian terms. It is not easy to believe now that Arab sovereignty will ever be restored on the West Bank, but the Reagan proposals are still formally on the table and Jordanians and Palestinians have yet to try the effect of a direct approach to Israel. They should now do so, for they have precious little left to lose.

## PERILOUS VICTORY IN JAMAICA

Jamaica has a key role to play in President Reagan's attempts to revive both economic prosperity and American influence in the Caribbean. It is to be not only a reliable friend but also a model for neighbouring states, demonstrating that private enterprise brings better results than the state-controlled system promoted by Cuba. Mr Seaga, who became Prime Minister shortly after the election of President Reagan, has received massive economic help and political support from Washington.

Unfortunately his decision to call an early election has not brought him quite the type of endorsement he needs. Mr Michael Manley, leader of the People's National Party, ducked out, alleging unfair electoral rolls but probably also aware that in spite of severe economic difficulties Mr Seaga would still win. The result is that the country faces virtual one-party rule for the next five years, which Mr Seaga himself recognizes to be unsatisfactory. He has offered opposition and neutral poli-

ticians seats in the Senate but this will not make for healthy politics at a time when considerable adjustments are going to be required if Mr Seaga's programme is to be successful.

Mr Seaga led his right-wing Labour Party to power after the 1980 election dedicated to the task of reviving Jamaica's moribund economy. Poor world prices for bauxite and a sugar crop depleted by storms and lack of investment were among his problems - along with a \$1,600m foreign debt. He promised "deleverance".

It looked at first as if he might indeed deliver - and in one or two respects he has. The violence which saw 900 people shot dead in the 10 months preceding the 1980 election has given way to law and order, and tourism has picked up in consequence. He negotiated a large programme with the International Monetary Fund and began to get inflation down - to below five per cent at one stage. But the recovery has not been sustained.

Inflation on the eve of the election was running at 18 per cent, unemployment at 26 per cent and factories, far from participating in an industrial revolution, were working well below capacity. The foreign debt has risen to more than \$2,300m, generating a debt servicing requirement which absorbs most of the island's foreign exchange. A 43 per cent devaluation preceded the election. Like so many developing countries at a time of world recession, Jamaica finds itself on a slippery slope and unable to keep its footing.

Moreover, economic forecasts have been less than sanguine, so Mr Seaga's real difficulties may be just beginning. Indeed, some experts expect that economic pressures will force the Labour government to go to the country again within a year or two. Will Edward Seaga be third time lucky? A picture of Fidel Castro is still prominently displayed in Mr Manley's office. Mr Seaga's victory will have pleased Washington but it will be no cause for complacency.

only fosters the kind of revolution that rightists want to avoid".

Sir Alfred Sherman claims that "the source of tension in Central America comes from the Marxist-Leninist regime in Nicaragua". From the record one might ask of the situations in these countries: State Kenneth Dam warned just last week that "right-wing repression only fosters the kind of revolution that rightists want to avoid".

Sir Alfred Sherman claims that "the source of tension in Central America comes from the Marxist-Leninist regime in Nicaragua". From the record one might ask of the situations in these countries: is Marxism-Leninism the cause, or the effect?

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN WEATHERILL,  
Wylye Head,  
Kilminster,  
Wiltshire.

## Church and remarriage

From Mr R. W. Mott  
Sir, The Venerable Dr Daunton-Fear asks (December 13) why the Church of England has not given greater consideration to granting decrees of nullity of marriage.

Nullity means that there was no marriage, for lack of consent or consummation. How can the Church declare null a marriage that has lasted for 10 years, that has produced children and that everybody, including the Church, recognised as a marriage at the time? How can the Church explain to children of the marriage that it has discovered, rather late in the day, that their parents were not married at all?

Moreover these subtleties would mean taking the matter out of the hands of priests and bishops and handing it over to lawyers, who would find a new source of income in dressing up divorce as nullity. Let us stick to the present proposals. Yours faithfully,  
R. W. MOTT,  
136 Lakenheath,  
Southgate, N14,  
December 13.

## London's buildings

From Professor Maurice Barley and others  
Sir, The Historic Buildings Division of the GLC is unique and it is fortunate for Britain that London should have built up, since 1901, an organization which responds so effectively to problems arising from the impact of the present on the remains of the past.

The division constitutes the nearest approach in Britain to an integrated response to those problems. It contains, within one open office, the whole range of skills and information, from a works section responsible for the 1,000 historic buildings and monuments owned by the GLC to architects, historians, archaeologists, draughtsmen and

photographers who contribute to the *Survey of London* and advise on everyday development control within the planning system.

Those familiar with the same problems in provincial cities know that it is to some extent a matter of accident as to whether sites and buildings are adequately investigated and recorded, whether or not they are preserved. There are still great variations between parts of the country arising from our system of local government and reliance in part on voluntary activity.

The special power of the GLC enable it to provide a comprehensive and well informed response to proposals for change.

The *Survey of London*, for which the GLC is entirely responsible, is

universally acclaimed. Furthermore, the latest volume in the *Buildings of England* series, *London 2: South*, about which your reviewer, Michael Ratcliffe (*The Times*, November 30), was properly enthusiastic, could not have been remotely as good as it is without access to archives of the division and to the knowledge which its staff has acquired.

The division must be kept together, without dilution of its powers or dispersal of its staff.

Yours faithfully,  
MAURICE BARLEY,  
ALEX CLIFTON-TAYLOR,  
PETER ADDYMAN,  
JOHN ASHDOWN,  
60 Park Road,  
Chislehurst,  
Nottingham,  
December 7.

## Threat in El Salvador

From Mr John Weatherill  
Sir, In his letter of December 12 Sir Alfred Sherman conveys the impression that Nicaragua is fuelling the guerrilla action against the purportedly democratic regime in El Salvador. Another report from David De Voss in *Time* magazine (December 12) based in San Salvador, conflicts dramatically with Sir Alfred's.

According to De Voss, the El Salvador guerrillas not only occupy strongholds throughout the country but for the past year have relied almost totally upon captured US weapons, not upon arms smuggled in from Nicaragua, or from Cuba or the Soviet Union. The Salvador Army, it seems, lacks the will to fight the guerrillas.

Added to such events, and according to El Salvador's Human Rights Commission, the notorious "death squads" have killed an estimated 40,000 people during the past four years. The State Department has assembled lists of suspected death squad leaders which include officers in the Salvador National Guard and treasury police. Of this situation Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Dam warned just last week that "right-wing repression







# FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

## The Prudential sets up 'own' London broker

Prudential-Bache Securities, a subsidiary of the Prudential Insurance Company of America, world's biggest insurance company, is setting up its 'own' London Stock Exchange member firm. The nucleus of it is Mr Ashley Down, head of corporate finance at James Capel one of London's leading stockbroking firms, and his deputy in the same department, Mr Christopher de Boer. Mr Down had expressed a wish some time ago to leave the partnership for personal reasons. Mr de Boer resigned on Monday. "Their going is a disappointment to us," was Capel's comment, "but we still have 63 partners left".

Prudential-Bache will own 29 per cent of the new firm the Stock Exchange describes as a "joint venture". That is the maximum permitted under Stock Exchange rules but Prudential-Bache has an option to acquire the balance if and when the rules are changed. In the interim most of any profits will accrue to the American "junior" partner.

The new firm will offer UK and Continental research and corporate finance services to British institutions and companies and to Prudential-Bache clients wherever they may be. To that end the new firm will recruit among other firms, bearing in mind also that the maximum it can take in captive commissions from Prudential-Bache is 20 per cent of the total.

Mr Jim Barton, head of Prudential-Bache international and commodity divisions in New York said the new firm would be recruiting 25 to 30 staff almost immediately, who would be offered the normal profit-sharing and bonus schemes. It would be capitalized, initially, at £500,000 although substantially more would be made available as the business grows. It would be incorporated as a limited company.

Britain's leading financial institutions, have some £300 billion under management of which 37.5 billions is thought to be invested abroad. "Obviously as our research capabilities grow," Mr Barton went on, "we hope to attract substantial business, both going into Britain and coming out. Hopefully a lot of it".

Prudential-Bache traditionally had built

its own businesses rather than bought into existing companies. "We could not wait for the rules to change to allow us a majority holding. We have hired professional expertise, at least we believe so, to build a new company brick-by-brick."

What many leading London brokers had feared, the poaching of senior staff by foreign rivals, has arrived quicker than expected.

A company with the Prudential's strength behind it should not be long in establishing itself as a power in London. Ironically the Prudential took over and restored Bache, Halsey Stewart in 1981 after Wall Street had undergone the same form of restructuring now beginning in London. It hopes that it has set an example for other American companies.

By the same token Prudential-Bache's initiative may accelerate decisions among British bankers, brokers and other financial institutions who are either huddled together in discussions about possible umbilical ties or carefully examining their navel for directions which way to jump. The Bank of England, in its new role as Stock Exchange monitor as well as its traditional role as the City's Keeper, is naturally concerned. In the December Quarterly Bulletin the Bank sees scope for a greater efficiency.

The Bank accepts that "foreign participation" in London will increase, but "it is important that this should be matched by the international involvement of strong groupings of British-owned institutions, which will no doubt emerge".

The Bank has shown no sign so far of positive discrimination in favour of domestic parties in the reshuffles taking place. But it is believed that two of the five important stockjobbers have already opted for home links.

Akroyd with S. G. Warburg, Smith Brothers with NM Rothschild. The Bank's priorities include ensuring adequate investor protection and a market in which it can self government debt. The name to conjure with in the gilt-edged market is Wedd Darwicher. It will surely announce a new partner soon, and it must be all Lombard Street to a China orange that the preferred institution will be British, not foreign.

## Dog-days lose their bite

The stock market was predicting as much a year ago and official statistics are now proving the point: company profits are recovering sharply from the dogdays of the recession. The Bank's Quarterly Bulletin records that profits rose by nearly 50 per cent between the first halves of 1981 (the pit of the recession) and 1983. Figures from the Central Statistical Office yesterday suggest that this trend is still accelerating: industrial and commercial company profits were nearly one-third higher in the third quarter compared with a year earlier. If you strip out North Sea operations the recovery is even more impressive. Profits rose by 35 per cent in real terms between the first half of 1981 and the first half of this year, after a similar fall in the previous three years.

It would be wrong to infer from these comparisons that everything is coming up roses in the corporate sector. For a start a 35 per cent rise in profits after a 35 per

cent fall does not leave the sector where it started five years ago. It is still well short of the starting line.

Companies have been benefiting from the rise in output while big gains in productivity mainly due to shedding people, have helped to keep down unit labour costs. That said, the real rate of profitability, probably back over 6 per cent compared with 2-3 per cent in early 1981, is still low; "lower not only than in the 1960s but also than in 1978", and according to the Bank, "well below the level necessary for a healthy rate of investment".

The Bank nonetheless is quite optimistic about an imminent recovery in investment because of industry's improved profitability and much stronger financial position - company liquidity's now as strong as at almost any time in the last 10 years.

## Lloyds spends £23m to lift stake in Royal Bank

By Peter Wilson-Smith  
Banking Correspondent

Lloyds Bank has spent £23m on increasing its stake in Royal Bank of Scotland Group from 16.4 per cent to 21.3 per cent, but denied any plans to make a bid. Lloyds said yesterday that the move was aimed at strengthening its position to gain the rest of Lloyds & Scottish, the finance house.

Lloyds, whose chairman is Sir Jeremy Morse, owns 60.3 per cent of the finance house at present and has long wanted to buy Royal Bank's 39.3 per cent stake. The two banks have been unable to agree a deal and Mr Brian Pittman, group chief executive of Lloyds, said it was worried that a third party would enter the fray.

"You can see that if a third party did come in and acquire a part of the Royal Bank of Scotland, this could give us some difficulty in acquiring the remaining part of Lloyds & Scottish. We feel that a larger holding in Royal Bank would help to secure our position," he said.

Although Lloyds approached Royal Bank with a view of taking it over before Royal Bank agreed to merge with



Sir Jeremy Morse (left) and Mr Sidney Procter: no talks on Lloyds & Scottish

Standard Chartered in 1981, Mr Pittman was adamant that a bid was not on the cards, although he did not rule out the possibility of buying more shares.

Royal Bank's 1981 merger plans with Standard Chartered were thwarted when the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank put in a £500m bid and both takeovers were subsequently blocked by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

However, the shake-up in financial markets and suspicion

executive of Royal Bank, said yesterday there were no talks going on about Lloyds & Scottish with Lloyds Bank. "They have always wanted Lloyds & Scottish. We have made no secret of the fact that if we could agree on a price we would sell," he said. He added that Lloyds & Scottish must be looking for improved profits and Royal Bank would not want to sell at the bottom.

The finance house's profits tumbled from a peak of £29.2m pre-tax in the year to September 30 1981 to £10.8m the following year. But in the first half of 1982-83 profits picked up from £6.5m to £10.6m.

Lloyds won control of Lloyds & Scottish in March 1981 when it launched a bid valuing the group at £240m, immediately after Standard Chartered and Royal Bank announced merger terms.

Lloyds rapidly took its existing stake above 50 per cent through market purchases and subsequently agreed terms to buy Royal Bank's stake once the Standard Chartered merger went through. But the deal fell through.

Lloyds paid 205p a share for the 11.25 million shares it bought in Royal Bank to take its stake up to 21.3 per cent.

## Index close to 770

The equity market continued to scale fresh heights yesterday, with investors' demand for blue chips showing few signs of being satisfied. The FT 30-share index closed at its high for the day, 777 up at a record 769.8.

Benefiting from the thin conditions were Cadbury Schweppes, up 8p at 117p, Distillers 6p to 227p, GKN 6p to 177p, Imperial Group 3p to 137p, Lucas 7p to 168p, TI Group 6p to 170p and Vickers 6p to 128. Some swift footwork was needed by the jobbers to keep themselves out of trouble as the lack of sellers continued to cause them problems.

But with the Christmas celebrations continuing to dominate proceedings, turnover generally remained low. Second-line stocks showed few signs of support, except in the case of bid situations and trading results.

Gilt-edged rises of up to 2½ in long, helped by the continued rally in the value of sterling against the dollar. By the close, it showed a rise of 5 points to \$1.4190.

Analysts remained hopeful that the equity market can maintain its momentum in the New Year, but few of the big City institutions appear anxious to open new positions until after Christmas.

Market report, page 17

## SE names lay members

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

The Stock Exchange yesterday announced the names of the first five lay members in its history. The five outsiders - two industrialists, a merchant banker, an academic and a pension fund manager - have been appointed as part of the wide-ranging package of reforms agreed with the Government earlier this year in the controversial compromise on the future of the exchange.

The five are Mr Robin Adam, deputy chairman of BP; Mr Alan Clements, finance director of ICI; Mr John Hull, deputy chairman of Schroders; Mr Hugh Jenkins, director general of investments at the National Coal Board pension

fund; and Professor Robert Jack, a partner of solicitors McGonigle, Donald and partner professor of mercantile law at Glasgow University.

As lay members, the five men will become full members of the Stock Exchange's council, attending the fortnightly council meetings and contributing to the exchange's policy discussions and decisions. Under the agreement thrashed out between the Government, the Bank of England and the chairman of the Stock Exchange, Sir Nicholas Goodison, the lay members are intended to provide independent outside advice and experience similar to that provided in industry by non-executive directors.

The lay members will also make up the Stock Exchange's membership appeal committee.

Mr Hull, a former director general of the Takeover Panel, said last night that the lay members included a number of big users of the stock market.

Mr Adam, 60, is retiring shortly from BP and will be taking over as chairman of MEPC. Mr Clements has been at ICI since 1956. Prof Jack, a specialist in company law, is 55 and a lay member of the Council for the Securities Industry. Mr Jenkins, 50, is one of the best known pension fund managers in the City, and has been with the coal board since 1963.

## Japanese joint deal for Oxford Instruments

By Andrew Cornelius

Oxford Instruments, which makes a super magnet forming the core of body scanner technology, yesterday announced a joint venture to make its magnets in Japan.

It is to set up a manufacturing company with Furukawa Electric, in Japan, and Far East sales of about £300m are expected in the next decade.

Dr Peter Williams, group managing director at Oxford, which was launched on the London stock market in October, said that the Japanese market for the magnets, which match the US market by 1986.

The company, Furukawa Oxford Technology, Dr Williams said, would manufacture and deliver its first magnets in Japan by the middle of next year.

Supply contracts have been negotiated with a leading Japanese company.

Toshiba, Hitachi and Shimadzu are the three leading companies which have won approval to sell the scanners in Japan.

Dr Williams said that Oxford has no competition to supply the magnets, which make up about one-third of the final £700,000 cost of each scanner.

However, he said, other companies were bound to try to develop their own magnet technology and that the arrangement would make it easier to sell the Oxford products.

Production will be centred at Furukawa's site at Chiba, 40 miles from Tokyo. Eventually, 100 people will be employed by the company.

When shares in Oxford Instruments were offered on the stock market the sales were oversubscribed 9.2 times, making it one of the most popular issues this year.

The company developed its world-beating technology from humble beginnings when it was set up on a part-time basis by Dr Martin Wood, a Cambridge engineering graduate, 25 years ago.

Its most famous product is the magnet used in the new body scanners, which have made X-ray medical diagnosis obsolete.

Other products include instruments and systems for monitoring patients, for materials analysis, and control of industrial processes.

## STOCK EXCHANGES

FT index: 769.8 up 7.7  
FT 30 Shares: 62.70 up 0.08  
FT All Shares: 464.87 up 1.35  
Bargains: 21,120  
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 95.1 up 0.02  
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest) 1245.73 up 1.12  
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 9,627.93 up 81.74  
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index: 858.53 up 1.28  
Amsterdam: 155.1 down 0.3  
Sydney: AO Index: 757.8 up 2.2  
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index: 1021.2 up 2.9  
Brussels: General Index: 134.79 up 0.31  
Paris: CAC Index: 149.2 up 0.1

## CURRENCIES

### LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.4190 up 5pts  
Index 81.9 down 0.2  
DM 3.9275 down 0.0050  
FF 11.9850 down 0.01  
Yen 333.25 down 2.0  
Dollar Index: 130.8 down 0.4  
DM 2.7678 down 0.0052  
NEW YORK LATEST  
Sterling \$1.4195  
Dollar DM 2.7660  
INTERNATIONAL  
ECU £0.574539  
SDR £0.731832

## INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:  
Bank base rate 9%  
Finance houses base rate 9%  
Discount market loans week fixed 8%  
3 month interbank 9%  
Euro-currency rates:  
3 month dollar 10%  
3 month DM 8%  
3 month FF 13%  
US rates:  
Bank prime rate 11.00  
Fed funds 9/8  
Treasury long bond 100%  
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period November 2 to December 8, 1983 inclusive: 9.350 per cent.

## GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):  
am \$375.40 pm \$378.10  
close \$377.50-378.25  
(2266-266.50)  
New York latest: \$377.75  
Kruggerand (per coin): \$388.390.50 (£274.25-275.25)  
Sovereigns (new): \$382.25-382.25 (£262.25-263).  
\*Excludes VAT

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### £7.5m rights issue by Carlton

Carlton Communications, one of Britain's leading independent television production companies, yesterday announced a one-for-five rights issue to raise £7.5m net at 300p a share.

At that price the issue means an 85p discount to the market's ruling level. Money from the issue will help Carlton to explore actively the American market, which has more than 1,000 television stations and accounts for 50 per cent of the world television market.

Carlton also announced a £2.7m profit for the year compared with £1.7m last year. Mr Michael Green, chairman, said: "All divisions showed good growth."

● Stock prices on the New York Stock Exchange were slightly higher in early trading with the Dow Jones industrial average up 1.5 points at 1,246. About 8 million shares had been traded.

● Senior partners of Conrad Riblat, the big commercial estate company, are in negotiations to buy out the major part of the 50 per cent shareholding owned by British Land and a deal could be struck by March. British Land yesterday declared its first interim dividend in more than a decade and reported a 6 per cent rise in half year pretax profits to £3.6m. Investor's Notebook, page 16

● Rank Xerox has been released by the Government from some undertakings relating to the sale of plain paper copiers imposed after a 1976 Monopolies and Mergers Commission report found some Rank Xerox trading practices were against the public interest. Since then a big growth in competition in copiers has eroded Rank's earlier dominance of the market.

## Sarasin rescue 'should go to Dunlop board'

By Wayne Listall

Samuel Montagu, merchant bank advisers to Pegg Malaysia Berhad, the group that holds just under 7 per cent of Dunlop, said yesterday that the rescue proposals from Sarasin International Securities for Dunlop should, in the first instance, be made to the board of Dunlop.

Sarasin had said that its £40m rescue plan depended on the support of the Pegg group. Sarasin proposes to inject £40m cash into a new company, which would then make an all share offer for Dunlop.

The statement said that Pegg fully supported Sir Maurice Hodgson, the chairman of Dunlop.

But the Pegg representatives, in London for this week's Dunlop board meeting, made

no comment on whether they would meet with the Sarasin representatives to discuss the proposals.

Sarasin has had informal talks with Sir Maurice over the proposals, but no statement was issued on the conclusions.

Samuel Montagu also clarified Pegg's position over the now defunct plans for Pegg to buy out Dunlop's Malaysian interests.

The bankers said that when the £55m deal to acquire Dunlop's Malaysian industries failed last Friday it was mutually agreed that the proposed transactions should not proceed.

"Pegg wishes to make clear that there are at present no debts outstanding from Pegg to Dunlop."

project directors at Strathclyde University, and two project researchers, Dr Alan Reeves and Mrs Margaret Milner.

Their 389-page report includes a detailed survey of 140 British of Irish-based affiliates of American or European multinational enterprises.

The investment that is likely to come to Britain in the next decade may increasingly be in a different form, with greater emphasis on joint ventures, licensing and other cooperative forms of involvement, says the report.

The most substantial opportunity, say the authors, lies with Japan. "The size of this opportunity and the speed with which it develops is, however, dependent upon trends in trade policy and in exchange rates."

Since Japanese direct investment in developed countries is

## Courtaulds plans paint buy-out

By Jeremy Warner

Courtaulds is planning to buy out the publicly held minority shareholding in its 88 per cent owned subsidiary, International Paint, the big industrial paints and coverings group, in a deal worth £14.5m.

Negotiations between the two companies and their advisers on a fair price are at an advanced stage and an announcement is expected this week. Courtaulds, the textiles group, is expected to bid for the 9.2 million shares which are publicly held with its own shares.

The stock market appears to have got wind of the buy-out. A halt was called to dealings in International Paints shares at 161p yesterday morning after their price had begun to move rapidly upwards in heavy trading.

Just two years ago, the stock market value of International Paint was as big as that of Courtaulds as a whole and it was regarded as the jewel in the crown of the ailing textiles group.

Since then, however, the fortunes of Courtaulds have improved dramatically under the chairmanship of Mr Christopher Hogg and although International Paint has remained a highly profitable company, it has suffered from the lower demand worldwide for industrial paint.

A spokesman for Hill Samuel, which is advising Courtaulds, said the buy-out would resolve a long standing anomaly. "There are bound to be differences between the requirements of minority shareholders and the parent company. To own 100 per cent of International Paint will give Courtaulds more flexibility in the group," he said.

International Paint is being advised by S G Warburg.

## Rolls agrees £20m diesel sell-off

By Our Industrial Correspondent

The £20m cash deal for the sale of the diesel engine business of the Rolls-Royce car company to Massey-Ferguson, the troubled tractor group, was confirmed yesterday.

The agreement in principle calls for £4.2m of the purchase price to be paid over 24 months in four instalments. The book value of the Shrewsbury-based diesel division is £31m and the business made a trading profit last year before interest of £1.7m.

Rolls-Royce diesels will become part of Massey's Perkins Engines Group of Peterborough. The combined group will have a range of engines from 30hp to 1,200hp.

In a joint statement, Mr David Flisford, the managing director and chief executive of Perkins, the Rolls parent, and Mr Victor Rice, chairman and chief executive of Canadian-based Massey, said: "This is the most important strategic event in the recent history of the British diesel engine industry and lays a solid foundation for its future development."

The new owners said little, however, to allay fears among the Shrewsbury workforce of more than 1,000 that more jobs might be lost.

Massey said: "The prospects for the (diesel) companies are good with a strong potential for the future. However, we are still suffering from the worst trading circumstances in living memory and we must continue to make cash savings as and when they present themselves. As a result, the headcount figures must be under continuing review."

The Shrewsbury operation is to be called Perkins but initially the Rolls-Royce name will continue to be used on the engines. Rolls' diesel sales last year were worth £50.9m compared with £29.4m for Perkins, but Rolls has a firm grip on the big lorry sector with almost 40 per cent of British-built trucks exceeding 25 tonnes gross vehicle weight fitted with a Rolls six-cylinder Eagle series unit.

Rolls is also a major Ministry of Defence supplier, although the deal did not need government approval, and provides the engine for the Challenger main battle tank and the new MCV 80 armoured vehicle.

## Posgate decision soon

By Our Financial Staff

A decision will be taken in the next few weeks over whether to bring charges against Mr Ian Posgate and four former directors of the Alexander Howden insurance group after an investigation by the Lloyd's of London authorities.

Mr Ian Davidson, chief executive of the Lloyd's market, confirmed yesterday that the report on the Howden affair had been received by the Lloyd's investigations committee. The committee will decide early next year whether to bring charges against Mr Posgate, former star underwriter with the Howden group, and four former Howden directors.

Mr Davidson also said that charges had been agreed in connection with a separate investigation into the Brooks & Dooley syndicates and that the disciplinary committee would begin proceedings next year.

In a separate statement Mr Davidson announced that he would resign as chairman of the accounting standards committee in July to concentrate on the Lloyd's job.

Hambros halves Australian stake

Hambros Bank has completed the sale of 50 per cent of its Australian subsidiary, Hambros Australia, in accordance with the assurances it gave the Australian Government five years ago when it set up the company.

Hambros Australia has increased its value from A\$2m (£1.25m) in 1978 to A\$24m.

Asset Transport Industries, the Australian independent airline, and Repco Corporation, the automotive engineering group, have each acquired 20 per cent of the company. The Australian management had acquired 10 per cent with Hambros London retaining 30 per cent.

Asset and Repco will each appoint two directors to the board of Hambros Australia and are each injecting A\$4m of new capital. The strengthening of the company will allow it to broaden existing operations and pursue new opportunities which are under investigation.

## S. Simpson plc

"... we have set ourselves a still higher target for next year and approach the challenge with confidence."

J.P.N. Mengers, Chairman

- Principal Group Activities**
- **Manufacturing** — DAKS menswear, womenswear, rainwear and leisurewear for UK and export
  - **Licensing** — DAKS clothing and accessories produced locally in major world markets
  - **Distribution** — The "DAKS Companies" range of accessories
  - **Contract** — Activon, suppliers of tailored clothing to Marks & Spencer
  - **Retailing** — Simpson Piccadilly, London's leading speciality store

Results in brief	1983	1982
Year ended 31st July	£'000	£'000
Turnover	27,028	22,949
Profit before tax	843	402
Profit after tax	651	271
Ordinary Dividends	253	222
Earnings per share	10.13p	4.14p

Copies of the Report & Accounts can be obtained from  
The Secretary,  
34 Jemyn Street, London, SW1Y 6HS





## INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK

# Surprise payout fails to lift British Land shares

Mr John Ritblat's British Land property and industrial group, has an interim dividend. It is a significant event for the company because it is the first half-year payout that British Land shareholders have received in more than a decade.

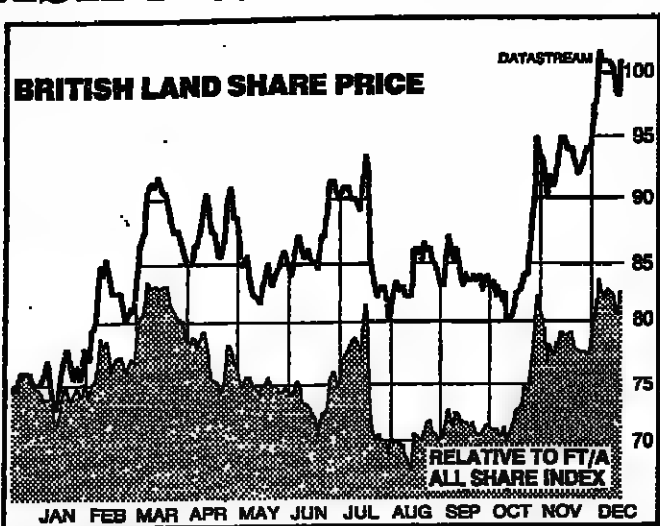
Assuming a same again final of 1.25p is paid, the interim of 0.5p implies a 40 per cent rise in the full year payout. But British Landshare price failed to respond to this news yesterday and closed unchanged at 101p and the stock market remains as uncertain as ever about the direction the company is taking.

Half year pretax profits were up 6 per cent from £3.4m to £3.6m after a rise before interest of 16 per cent. The company has been spending heavily so the sharp rise in bank borrowing costs is not surprising.

In the United States, Growth Realty, which has now changed its name to British Land of America, made a net gain in the quarter year to the end of September after the reorganisation started 18 months ago when British Land acquired a minority interest in the company. British Land has also spent heavily on improving the length of leaseholds on its properties.

Profits from the industrial division were a little better at about £1.1m during the half year and gross rental income was up £1m at £10.1m.

The profit from property and dealing in securities was roughly the same overall, with the fall in returns from trading offset by



better housebuilding and property trading profits.

The group continues to rely heavily on these dealing profits as a source of revenue. Last year they accounted for about 42 per cent of group pretax profits and are likely to be only a little lower this time.

The exposure to dealing revenue is just one of the worrying features at British Land. Another is the apparent lack of direction at the group.

The company has recently entered ventures as hotel building with Comfort Hotels, a new unit trusts group with Mr Brian Banks, partly funding a Finsbury Square development and taking a 15 per cent stake in Dares Estates.

Until some strategy is put forward to explain these and other moves, the shares will continue to look vulnerable, despite trading at a discount to net assets of 39 per cent, which is well above the sector average.

## Stenhouse

Shareholders of Stenhouse Holdings have until tomorrow afternoon to decide on the merits of one of the City's most peculiar takeover attempts for many years.

The £3.5m bid for Stenhouse by Reed Stenhouse is its 49 per cent-owned Canadian subsidiary, has been an embarrassment to the boards of both companies, particularly for those with seats in both boardrooms.

Both companies agree that a merger is the only sensible answer to the problems posed by the peculiar relationship between the two, but they

cannot agree on sensible terms. Stenhouse Holdings has, for many years, been little more than a small investment management office in Glasgow watching over the Reed Stenhouse investment and holdings in Noble Grossart, the merchant bank, and Stenhouse Syndicates, the Lloyd's insurance broking firm.

Reed Stenhouse, in contrast, is a thriving Canadian insurance business which has been hampered in its development by its status as a subsidiary of Stenhouse Holdings.

Despite the attractions of the Reed Stenhouse offer of one Reed Stenhouse ordinary share, plus 20p cash, for every five Stenhouse Holdings shares, the Stenhouse Holdings board refuses to let the Reed board get away with a deal which favours Canadian shareholders.

They argue that the offer provides substantial benefits to Reed Stenhouse shareholders at the expense of Stenhouse Holdings shareholders.

While the Stenhouse board is prepared to accept on halfway house which would be of benefit to both sets of shareholders it will not accept a situation whereby the earnings of Stenhouse increased by 11 per cent.

Reed Stenhouse says that Stenhouse Holdings is unable to offer any alternative to the Reed Stenhouse bid and that no serious interest has emerged from another potential bidder.

Early indications are that the initial offer from Reed Stenhouse will fail, winning support from 40 per cent of shareholders at best.

## COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Cifer, the Melksham, Wiltshire, designer and manufacturer of microcomputers and computer video terminals, which joined the USM in June, reports pretax profits of £1.352m for the year to September 30, 1983 (1982: £851,000). At the time of issuing its prospectus, Cifer forecast profit before tax would not be less than £1.35m. As declared in the prospectus, the company does not intend recommending a dividend, but still expects to pay one for the current year.

Sheafbank Property Trust has agreed to buy Gradeland Securities, a Manchester property company. Price: 4.54 million new ordinary shares. Gradeland's net assets of £727,000 at March 31. After takeover and proposed rights issue, sellers of Gradeland will hold 40.2 per cent of Sheafbank's enlarged ordinary capital. Sheafbank proposes to reduce its issued capital from £1.2m, divided into 25p shares, to £482,000 in 10p shares. Board is conditionally proposing a rights issue of two new ordinary shares for every five shares held at 16p each, and will raise about £308,000 before expenses.

Radleys of Yorkshire: Half-year to October 29, 1983, compared with half-year to September 30, 1982. Figures in £000s. Group turnover 77,306 (60,568). Group profit 529 (519) after all charges, interest 71 (15), depreciation 176 (151) and tax 77 (140). EPS - basic 6.19p (6.07p) and fully diluted 4.39p (4.3p). Interim dividend unchanged at 0.5p.

Memory Computers: Six months to Sept 30, 1983. Figures in Irish £000s. Turnover 4,835 (3,541). Pretax profit 510 (340). Interim payment 1p net (nil last time).

Scotts Restaurant: Half-year to June 30, 1983. Turnover £1.56m (£1.37m). Pretax profit £115,000 (£76,000).

Real Time Control: Half-year to Sept 30, 1983. No interim payment. Directors intend to recommend a net dividend of 2p for full year. Figures in £000s. Turnover 1,754 (1,363). Pretax profit 145 (407).

Belgrave (Blackheath): Half-year to July 31, 1983. Figures in £000s. Turnover 1,317 (1,567). Profit before tax 18 (loss 48).

Alliance Investment: Half-year to Oct 31, 1983. Figures in £000s. Franked income 452 (396). Unfranked income 523 (456). Management expenses and interest 563 (272). Pretax profit 412 (580). Interim payment effectively unchanged at 0.5p a share.

## Economics Commentary by Tim Congdon

# Triumph of the old fogeys

The USA's trade and current account position, 1975-82

All figs in \$ billion	Merchandise trade balance	Invisibles balance	of which investment income	Current account
1975	9.0	9.3	12.6	18.3
1976	9.9	13.6	18.9	4.4
1977	-30.9	16.8	18.0	-14.1
1978	-33.8	19.0	20.6	-14.8
1979	-27.3	26.8	31.2	-0.5
1980	-25.3	26.8	29.9	1.5
1981	-27.9	32.4	33.0	4.5
1982	-36.3	28.2	28.7	-8.1

Source: US Department of Commerce

would have greeted it with

denial. President Eisenhower today, increasingly wise and fiscal fine-tuning, with its many derivatives, increasingly silly. High-powered economic theoreticians are now trying to develop analytically rigorous demonstrations that deficits have very unfavourable long-run effects on the economy. Mr Martin Feldstein, chairman of the US Council of Economic

Advisers, has produced some of his original work in this area. But President Reagan is not interested. A budget deficit of more than \$170 billion is in prospect for the 1984 fiscal year, with perhaps bigger numbers in later years. Despite this, he has made no promises about restoring budgetary equilibrium.

Indeed, he has given few signs that he considers the deficit a serious problem.

His indifference in not altogether surprising. When a country runs a large budget deficit it also normally has a large balance-of-payments deficit. The payments deficit then causes currency depreciation and higher inflation.

The President's budget deficit has been associated, as the conventional logic would imply, with a serious deterioration in the American balance of payment. But it has also coincided with a phase of remarkable dollar strength on the foreign exchanges. The dollar's behaviour has been helpful for the control of American inflation rather than the reverse.

The dollar's strength is generally regarded as a puzzle, but there is agreement that heavy capital inflows to the US have been an essential support.

Investment money is being channelled towards the US, financing the current account deficit and enabling the American people to enjoy an armaments boom, an import boom and a consumption boom without paying the bill. If this continues until the

presidential election next year president Reagan has nothing to worry about. From a political standpoint, the combination of an overvalued currency and a vast budget deficit is ideal.

It should hardly need comment. Let alone emphasis, that the present stance of American financial policy is unsustainable. One method of showing this is to extrapolate the present budget deficit by adding on the inevitable increase in interest payments on the national debt.

The United States government is in a situation, well-known to bankrupts and usurers, where it is borrowing in order to pay interest on its existing debt.

But there is an alternative approach. It is to examine the structure of the United States balance of payments in recent years and to project its evolution.

The current account position as a whole was satisfactory between 1975 and 1982. But several types of transaction contributed to this result. The salient feature is that, while the trade position was sliding steadily for eight years, the current account was rescued by a rising surplus on invisibles.

In particular, there was a strong improvement in investment income. This reflected the profits and interest the United States received from the substantial body of foreign assets it built up in the 1950s, 1960s and early 1970s. Without these receipts there would have been a current account deficit of about \$200 billion over the 1975-82 period instead of an approximate balance.

In 1983, the trade gap has widened sharply. The trade deficit is likely to total \$70 billion and the current account deficit almost \$40 billion.

The disturbing possibility now emerging is that the surplus on investment income will be eliminated and replaced by a deficit. The result is simple. Financial policy has become so

deviant and the current account deficit has reached such proportions that foreigners are accumulating many more assets in the United States than Americans are accumulating abroad.

The foreigners expect an income on their investments. If the current account deficit continues, the United States will eventually become a net debtor to other countries.

By then the transparency of President Reagan's fiscal programme will be obvious to all. The capital flows in the dollar-denominated assets have been largely motivated by the common perception of the United States as a safe haven in a troubled world. But, if it were to become a significant net debtor, perceptions would change.

The American government would be in an awkward spot. Once the capital inflows stopped, the budget deficit would have to be financed wholly from internal sources instead of to a large extent from abroad. It is difficult to see how, in view of the inadequacy of domestic savings flows, this could be done without medication of debt - and so return to rapid inflation.

When President Eisenhower wrote his memoirs in 1965 he felt he should respond to complaints that his fiscal policy

## Eisenhower looks wiser and fiscal fine-tuning silly

had been too restrictive. In his view, "critics overlooked the inflationary psychology which prevailed during the mid-fifties and which I thought it necessary to defeat. In 1957, for example, consumer prices were rising at an unacceptably high annual rate of 3.2 per cent. Ten years of this could devalue the dollar more than 30 per cent while the rate accelerated, we would have had an entirely intolerable situation on our hands."

He continued: "The anti-inflation battle is never-ending, though I fear that in 1959 the public was apathetic, at least uninformed, regarding this issue. This attitude caused me to recall a laconic comment of Winston Churchill when someone asked him during World War Two what the allies were fighting for: 'If we stop,' he replied, 'you will find out.'"

The author is economics partner at stockbroker L. Messel & Co.

## Base Lending Rates

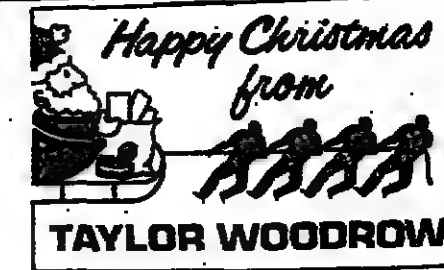
ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9%
BCI	9%
Citibank Savings	10 1/2%
Consolidated Crds	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminister	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

\* 7 day deposits on basis of tender. £10,000, 90 day £25,000 up to £50,000, 90 day £50,000 and over, 7 1/2%.

1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996	995	994	993	992	991	990	989	988	987	986	985	984	983	982	981	980	979	9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Wine	380			7.3	2.3	16.1
Brown	111			8.3	7.5	10.9
Merlin	265	-10	b	..	..	..
Cous	132			2.6	1.9	..
Se	265			2.1	1.4	21.8
..	130			..	1.7	8.8
rd Nat	265			0.7	2.5	12.4
Abroad	394			..	..	..
Fredy	59			..	..	..
Tech	174	-8	b	..	..	22.8
ard	130			2.1	1.9	39.1
Surcas	59			2.6	2.6	..

II. b Forecast dividend. c Corrected  
 percent paid. f Price at suspension.  
 g Percent paid. h Special dividend. i Bid for  
 the firm. j Forecast earnings. k Ex-  
 ercise price. l Share split. m No  
 dividend for late dealings. .. No



























## Rate Bill faces big test in Lords

Continued from page 1

Councils, which represents many such authorities, said that the Bill "threatens even greater interference in the affairs and activities of local authorities than was originally feared."

The Association of County Councils, also led by Conservatives, said: "The case has still not been made for such unprecedented powers." It said that the supposedly objective assessment through which the councils could escape selective capping could be changed.

The Bill gives ministers the power to review from year to year the vaguely defined criteria on which they will pick councils for capping. It will allow Mr Jenkin to select a council for capping in 1985 "if it appears to him that its total expenditure in that year is likely to be excessive having regard to general economic conditions."

Dr John Cunningham, Labour spokesman on the Environment, pledged yesterday that a Labour government would repeal the legislation if Mr Jenkin managed "by hook or by crook" to get it through Parliament (Our Political Correspondent writes).

He added: "For the first time since 1601, Whitehall will have dictatorial powers over every local authority in the land."

Parliament, page 4

Leading article, page 13

## Israeli aircraft watch Arafat armada sail out

Continued from page 1

Loyalists before their evacuation (Christopher Walker writes). It claimed that, despite US pressure, no formal guarantees of safe passage had been given to either Greece or France.

A senior official told *The Times*: "We are satisfied that by our actions we got over the point that Mr Arafat was leaving by our favour, and not from any form of divine justice or in any legitimate way. We believe that what we did showed up the true nature of the evacuation."

"The purpose of our policy was to demonstrate that the whole question of safe passage for such terrorists is one that is open to discussion at all times. It is not something they are entitled to by right, as they might have believed."

Arafat's Odyssey, page 6

Leading article, page 13

## Photographer of rare imagination



The death of Bill Brandt in London at the age of 79 has robbed the world of the acknowledged master of twentieth century British photography.

Brandt brought to documentary and nude photography a rare imagination and intelligence. The high point of his documentary work was reached during the thirties with the publication of *The British at Home* and *A Night in London*. Brandt's camera ranged from the East End poor to the inhabitants of fashionable London and set a new standard for documentary photography. Never again was he to achieve such heights in this particular genre. Instead his attention turned more and more to the nude: using relatively simple equipment, he brought about the distortion of limbs that we recognize as his alone. An exhibition of his work opens at the Victoria and Albert Museum next March.

*The Times*'s selection from his work covers the late thirties to the early forties. A paragon of the genre, Brandt prepares a bath before dinner; frost encrusts a statue in Crystal Palace Gardens in London; and two girls enjoy the sun as a fisherman waits for a bite.

Obituary, page 14



## Police trace dealer who sold bomb car

Continued from page 1

demonstrations in the East End of London and in Trafalgar Square, drawing police strength at a time when officers were needed elsewhere.

Scotland Yard said that it recognized the right to free speech but "during these troublesome days it would be helpful if potential demonstrators advised us of their plans."

CND said that the demonstrations were spontaneous after rumours that a cruise missile was due to leave the Greenham Common air base. "Had we known, we might have suggested the demonstrations did not take place."

The Prime Minister, prompted by a backbench MP, pointed out in the Commons yesterday that money given by Irish Americans to the IRA might have resulted in the death of an American citizen and the injury of others in the Harrods bombing on Saturday (Our Political Editor writes).

She said the Government condemned as strongly as had President Reagan the money going to Noraid, the Irish Northern Aid Committee, which is believed by the Government to be the principal fund-raising body for the IRA in the United States.

Mrs Thatcher said that money for Noraid was given to those who rejected democracy and pursued the ends of violence, death and destruction of innocent people.

Mr Michael Colvin, Conservative MP for Romney and Watford, had asked her to endorse a similar statement by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, when interviewed on American breakfast television on Monday. Mr Colvin said the tragic death of an American might bring home that money given to Noraid "does not go to help widows and orphans, but to create them."

Mr John Jume, of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, asked the Prime Minister to "dampen the hysteria" about Irish-American support for violence. The vast majority of the 44 million Irish Americans did not support it, and their opposition was forcibly expressed by their leaders.

Mrs Thatcher agreed that the overwhelming majority of American and Irish people condemned violence as a means of pressing political ends.

Parliament, page 4

## Frank Johnson in the Commons

## Determined mood by the Welsh

The chief Opposition spokesman on Wales yesterday produced a late, but surely unobscured, but for the very worrying accusation by a politician in 1983: "This is a black day for local government in Wales."

Presumably the chief Opposition spokesman on Wales did not intend his remarks to excite so little concern. It must be assumed that we were supposed to feel outraged. But as far as non-Welsh citizens are concerned, if we are to have black days then most people would not complain if they are confined to local government in Wales. But if you are Opposition spokesman on Wales, it is extremely difficult to get people to remember who you are.

The present incumbent's difficulty in this respect is added to by the fact that, like most Welsh males, his name is Mr Jones.

An Opposition spokesman on Wales named Mr Jones starts out with an enormous disadvantage when trying to make his way in the world. The combination of name and subject is the problem. He probably qualifies for all sorts of grants, reverse discrimination, remedial tuition and visits from social workers under various progressive legislation.

There was no doubt yesterday that this Mr Jones thought he was being suitably inflammatory and demagogic. It was just that society - on learning that his name is Jones and that his subject was Welsh local government - was prejudiced against remembering who he was or what was his speciality.

The real Secretary for Wales, whose name is Mr Edwards, rose to make a statement on Welsh rate-capping. Society, in the form of hundreds of MPs for non-Welsh constituencies, fled the chamber in desperation. That is always what happens when experts on Welsh local government move into the neighbourhood. A forlorn band of Welsh members were left to ponder Welsh rate-capping.

The one named Jones, who was marginally distinct from all the others named Jones, being the chief Opposition spokesman on Wales, went into action once Mr Edwards sat down. Desperately, Mr Jones simulated anger. "This is an authoritarian document," he began. And for many sentences he reacted to Welsh rate-capping as if it were Irish knee-capping. A flagrant act of injustice.

freedom of local government at risk, but surely unobscured, but for the very worrying accusation by a politician in 1983: "This is a black day for local government in Wales."

Buried in all that was a sensationalist bathetic nomenclature of the black day for Welsh local government. But, that apart, after a while one came to the conclusion that this Mr Jones, whoever he may be, was doing rather well. He was coming seriously close to making Welsh local government exciting, a human drama in their own service, and authorities doing flagrant things with documents. Certainly, he made Welsh local government much more interesting than did Dylan Thomas.

Mr Edwards, the Secretary of State, accused Mr Jones of exaggerating.

Exaggerating was brisk a day long with hopes of recovery, but the time was close to Westminister tomorrow afternoon. Mr Norman Tebbit, the Minister of State at Trade and Industry, arrived to announce that the British had cancelled an order for an oil rig on the Clyde of the reasonable-sounding name of the shipyard.

The chief Opposition spokesman on Scotland, Mr Donald Dewar, perhaps mindful of the standards already set by Wales announced that it was all a disgrace and that moreover, it was "lacking in humility and humanity."

But Wales was in a determined mood yesterday. Mr Robert, of the Welsh Order, struck a blow for its immunities by responding: "I regret that I am unable to understand the question as posed." The questioner was Mr Dafydd Thomas, the Welsh Nationalist member for what was described as "Meirionnydd Nant Conwy". I regret that I am unable to understand the constituency as posed.

## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### Today's events

**Royal engagements**  
Princess Anne, President of the Save the Children Fund, attends the Annual Concert at the Royal Albert Hall, 6.55.  
Prince and Princess Michael of Kent attend the London Fire Brigade's Annual Service of Carols, Central Hall, Westminster.

**Last chance to see**  
Cecil Maguire, the Bell Gallery, 13 Adelaide Park, Malone Road, Belfast 9; Mon to Fri 9 to 5 (ends today).

Christmas exhibition of paintings, drawings, prints and ceramics, Festival Gallery, Pierpoint Place, Bath, Tues to Sat 11-5, closed Sun and Mon.

**Carol Services**  
Cathedral School Carol Services, Lincoln Minster, Lincoln, 2.30.  
Carols by candlelight by the City of Bath Bach Choir Pump Room, Bath, 7.30.

Concert of Christmas music by the West Riding Singers, Holy Trinity Parish Church, Colindale, Leeds, 7.45.  
Carols concert by Cynthia Glover

(soprano), Watford Town Hall, Watford, 7.30.  
BBC Wales Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, St Luke's Church, Cardiff, 7.30.

**Exhibitions in progress**  
Ben Nicholson: The Years of Experiment, 1919-1939, City Museum & Art Gallery, Drake Circus, Plymouth, Mon to Sat 10 to 6, closed Sunday (ends Jan 3).  
Pete from a Lotus exotic sports car from India, Cliffe Castle, Spring Gardens Lane, Ketchley, Tues to Sun 10-6 (closed Mon, except Bank Holiday ends July 1984).

**Victorian Paintings Workshop:** Crafts for Christmas, Leicester Guild of Craftsmen, both exhibitions at Leicester Museum and Art Gallery, 96 New Walk, Leicester, Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5.30, closed Friday (Victorian paintings: end Jan 3; Crafts, Dec 28).

Paintings, Prints and Drawings by David Mack, Sarah Jones, Nicholas Sheehy and Nigel Tomlinson, Exhibition Gallery, Faculty of Art and Design, Southampton College of Higher Education, East Park Terrace, Southampton Mon to Fri 10 to 4.30, closed Sat and Sun (ends Jan 6).

Christmas exhibition of paintings by Falmouth Schoolchildren, Falmouth Art Gallery, Municipal Offices, Falmouth, Cornwall; Mon to Fri 10 to 4.30, closed Sat and Sun and 22 December to 2 January inclusive (ends Jan 6).

**Anniversaries**  
Births: Leopold von Ranke, author of the *History of the Papacy* and considered as the father of archival history, Wiesbaden, 1795; Sir Joseph Whitworth, mechanical engineer, Stockport, 1803; Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield, Prime Minister, 1868, 1874-80, London, 1804; Mily Balakirev, composer (New Style Jan 2); Nijel Norgard, Russia, Deaths: Giovanni Boccaccio, author of the *Decamerone*, Certaldo, Italy, 1375; F. Scott Fitzgerald, novelist, author of *The Great Gatsby*, Hollywood, 1940.

**Christmas cash**  
Outside dispensing machines will be open at most banks which have the facility over the Christmas and New Year periods. There are now twice as many dispensers as there were a year or so ago so if one is nearby there should be another nearby. This will be particularly helpful to NatWest and Midland Bank customers because these banks have sharing arrangements.

**Fire warning**  
The Home Office fire statistics for 1982, just published, have a cautionary note for this home-bound festive season. Not counting chimney fires, just over a quarter of all fires last year occurred in buildings and most of them house fires. The most common cause (26 per cent) of these building fires was the accidental misuse of appliances, usually cooking equipment; faulty equipment accounted for another 18 per cent, deliberate ignition for 14 per cent, and carelessness as in the disposal of cigarettes, for a further 10 per cent.

### First novels of year

The Literary Editor's selection of first novels of the year:  
Aisha, by Abdul Souleil (Cape, £7.95).  
Brilliant Creatures, by Gwyn Jones (Cape, £7.95).  
Coming from Behind, by Howard Jacobson (Corgi & Windus, £7.95).  
Flying to Nowhere, by John Fuller (Sealander, £5).  
Holy Pictures, by Clare Boylan (Hamish Hamilton, £7.95).  
Hunt for the Autumn Crown, by M. S. Power (Corgi & Windus, £3.50).  
Jumping the Goose, by Mary Wesley (Macmillan, £7.95).  
Lord of the Dance, by Robin Lloyd-Jones (Gollancz, £5.95).  
Separate Tracks, by Jane Rogers (Penguin, £7.95).  
The Wolf, by Max Davidson (Corgi, £7.95).

### Roads

**London and South-east:** A249: Auto signals on Maidstone Bypass, 100m north of M2 bridge to Sittlingbourne car park, off peak hours. A12: Single lane in off-peak hours between Whalebone Lane, Dagenham, and Mowsey Road, Romford. A4068: Contraflow between Blackbird Hill and Nessden Lane, one lane in each direction.

**Middlesex:** A1: Contraflow southbound north of Normans Cross, Exhibition Gallery, Faculty of Art and Design, Southampton College of Higher Education, East Park Terrace, Southampton Mon to Fri 10 to 4.30, closed Sat and Sun (ends Jan 6).

**Wales and West:** M4: Lane closures between junction 432 (Cardiff) and junction 34 (Llantrisant), delays. A40: Temporary lights with diversion and delays on Park Road, Cardiff. M5: Both carriageways resurfaced between junction 26 (Wellingborough) and 27 (Tiverton).

**North:** A61: Resurfacing work along Bursley Road, near Wakefield, West Yorkshire. A688: Reconstruction at Bonhill Bank, Bishop Auckland. A74: Single lane traffic and contraflow on Moss Band viaduct between Carlisle and Gretna Green.

**Scotland:** A68: All southbound and northbound traffic over 30cwt diverted north of Dalkeith; northbound traffic reduced to a single lane.

**A92:** Single-lane traffic, delays at peak periods in Central Edinburgh. Kilmadry, A72: Single-lane traffic with lights west of A703 junction at Pepples.

Information supplied by AA.

**The pound**

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	1.66	1.56
Canada \$	22.95	22.75
Denmark Kr	83.75	83.75
France F	1.33	1.26
Germany DM	14.74	14.04
Italy Lira	8.68	8.28
Japan Yen	12.30	11.80
Netherlands Gld	4.06	3.97
Norway Kr	160.00	150.00
Portugal Esc	11.30	10.70
Spain Ptas	1.30	1.25
Sweden Kr	245.00	234.00
Switzerland Fr	349.00	331.00
USA \$	11.52	10.92
Yugoslavia Dnr	194.00	184.00
	1.82	1.69
	231.00	221.00
	11.98	11.38
	3.26	3.09
	1.2	1.41
	216.00	206.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 341.9

The FT Index closed up 7.7 at 159.8

### The papers

The Washington Post says that it is worth "springing" Yasser Arafat, even this second time in an attempt to end what it calls the "cruel end game" of Lebanon. "It seems he will survive and, more than that, return soon to the international scene. But he is not accumulated an obligation to those who are letting him leave? Has he not accumulated a far deeper obligation to his own people to take the step that some Palestinian leader eventually must take to move his people toward their goal of a homeland? Little in Yasser Arafat's career suggests he is the man to relinquish terror, manoeuvre and ambiguity to pursue an open course towards coexistence with Israel. The question is whether he can bring himself, at this moment, to risk the one course that conceivably offers results."

Commenting on the Japanese elections the English language daily Japan Times says: "If the election was a plebiscite on the 'Tanaka issue', voters as a whole made it clear that they do not approve of a party that is dominated by a convicted ex-Prime Minister and of the pork barrel politics he and his followers are believed to represent. The Liberal Democratic Party failed to secure not only a working majority of 270 but also a simple majority of 236 in the 511-seat House of Representatives. The number of seats it gained - 250 - means a major defeat for the ruling party, which held 286 seats in the Lower House before the election. Voters did, in effect, what the Diet had failed to do. The election was called as a direct result of Parliamentary impasse over the handling of a joint Opposition resolution calling for the voluntary resignation of Mr Kakuei Tanaka, by either voting against the LDP or abstaining. Many people disappointed of the way the LDP ignored the overwhelming public outcry for Tanaka's resignation. The great irony is that Mr Tanaka himself garnered the largest number of votes of his long political career - a figure that far exceeded even the number he collected while he was Prime Minister."

**Parliament today**

Commons (2.30): Housing and Building Control Bill, remaining stages.  
Lords (11): Coal Industry Bill, Registration of Prisoners Bill, and Animal Health and Welfare Bill, second readings.

**Law courts**

The Michaelmas sittings at the Royal Courts of Justice end today.

## Weather

A complex depression over Northern Ireland will move northwards.

Gale to midnight

London, SE, central S England, East Angles, E W Midlands: Showers or longer periods of rain, becoming brighter and drier later; wind SW strong locally becoming W moderate or fresh, max 6-8 (45-48F).  
Central N, NE, NW England, Lake District: Showers or longer periods of rain, some bright or sunny intervals; winds S fresh or strong becoming W moderate or fresh; max temp 7-8C (45-48F).  
Channel Islands, SW England, S, N Wales: Showers or longer periods of rain, becoming brighter and drier later; wind SW strong, locally becoming moderate or fresh later; max temp 6-8C (45-48F).  
Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, central Highlands: Showers or longer periods of rain, some bright intervals; wind S fresh or strong locally becoming W moderate or fresh; max temp 6-7C (43-45F).  
Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, Northern Ireland: Cloudy, showers or longer outbreaks of rain, becoming brighter and drier later; wind light and variable becoming W moderate; max temp 5-6C (43-48F).  
Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Rain, heavy at times, till fog, wind NE strong locally becoming NW moderate or fresh; max temp 5-7C (43-45F).  
Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Continuing unsettled with showers or longer periods of rain, but also sunny intervals; temperatures high or a little above normal.

**FASSADEX:** S North Sea, Straits of Dover: Wind SW, strong decreasing; rain, sea rough becoming moderate. English Channel (E): Wind SW fresh, moderate. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind SW strong decreasing; rain, sea rough becoming moderate.

Sun rises: 8.04am. Sun sets: 3.53pm.

Moon rises: 5.15pm. Moon sets: 9.38am.

Last quarter December 26.

**Lighting-up time**

London 4.23 pm to 7.24 am

Bristol 4.23 pm to 7.24 am

Edinburgh 4.29 pm to 7.12 am

Sheffield 4.31 pm to 7.10 am

Pennance 4.32 pm to 7.09 am

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud; F, rain; S, sun.

Belfast: C 7.45, S 10.50

Birmingham: C 7.45, S 10.50

Blackpool: C 7.45, S 10.50

Bristol: C 7.45, S 10.50

Cardiff: C 7.45, S 10.50

Edinburgh: C 7.45, S 10.50

Exeter: C 7.45, S 10.50

Glasgow: C 7.45, S 10.50

Leeds: C 7.45, S 10.50

Liverpool: C 7.45, S 10.50

Manchester: C 7.45, S 10.50

Newcastle: C 7.45, S 10.50

Nottingham: C 7.45, S 10.50

Oxford: C 7.45, S 10.50

Perth: C 7.45, S 10.50

Reading: C 7.45, S 10.50

Sheffield: C 7.45, S 10.50

Southampton: C 7.45, S 10.50

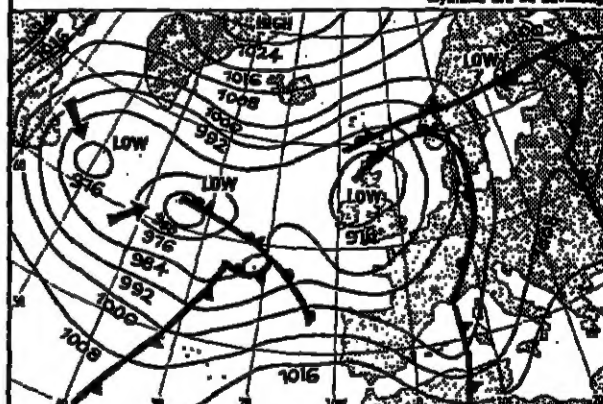
Stirling: C 7.45, S 10.50

Torquay: C 7.45, S 10.50

Wolverhampton: C 7.45, S 10.50

Wrexham: C 7.45, S 10.50

### NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. Fronts warm, cold, occluding.



### High tides

	Today	Tomorrow	Day after
London Bridge	2.18	7.1	2.25
Aberdeen	1.41	6.5	1.48
Aldershot	7.49	12.2	8.16
Amble	1.24	12.1	6.09
Cardiff	1.24	12.1	6.09
Devonport	1.24	12.1	6.09
Dover	1.24	12.1	6.09
Falmouth	1.24	12.1	6.09
Glasgow	1.24	12.1	6.09
Hull	1.24	12.1	6.09
Leith	1.24	12.1	6.09
Liverpool	1.24	12.1	6.09
Manchester	1.24	12.1	6.09
Mersey	1.24	12.1	6.09
Newcastle	1.24	12.1	6.09
Nottingham	1.24	12.1	6.09
Oxford	1.24	12.1	6.09
Perth	1.24	12.1	6.09
Reading	1.24	12.1	6.09
Sheffield	1.24	12.1	6.09
Southampton	1.24	12.1	6.09
Stirling	1.24	12.1	6.09
Torquay	1.24	12.1	6.09
Wolverhampton	1.24	12.1	6.09
Wrexham	1.24	12.1	6.09

Time shown in hours and minutes. Tide measurement is subject to 1-2% error.

### Around Britain

	W	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S	C	F	S
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